# THE SHAKERITE

February 29, 2008 • Volume 78 • Issue 6 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120


# Trading French Fries for Carrot Sticks

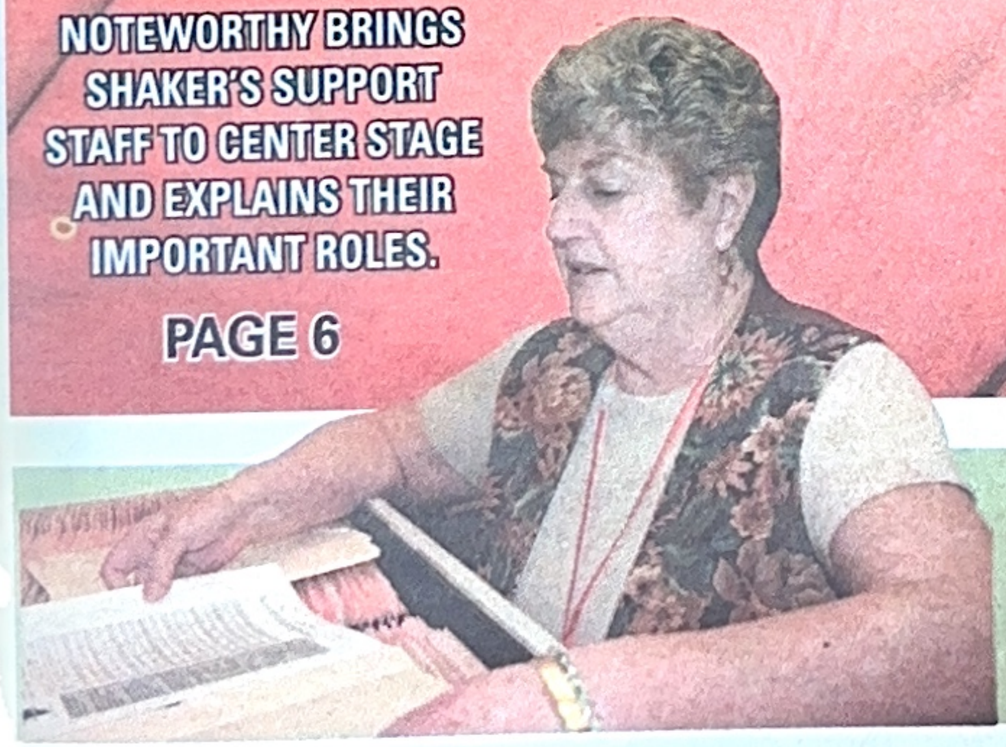
• As students across the country battle to stay *healthy, see* what Shaker students are doing to cut the carbs

The Beat, Page 12

## BEHIND THE SCENES

NOTEWORTHY BRINGS SHAKER'S SUPPORT STAFF TO CENTER STAGE AND EXPLAINS THEIR IMPORTANT ROLES.

PAGE 6



## STUFFING THE BALLOT BOX

WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES JUST DAYS AWAY, THE EDITORIAL BOARD PROVIDES BOTH DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN ENDORSEMENTS

PAGE 11

## TUNE IN TO AFRICA

COLUMNIST TEDDY CAHILL CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF AFRICAN ISSUES

PAGE 10

**COVER SHOT**

For dieting students, vegetables take the place of a burger, fries and a coke. Diets like the Skinny Bitch Diet, Weight Watchers and the South Beach Diet emphasize fruit and vegetables as healthier alternatives. Photo by Bobby O'Connor.

# What's Inside

02.29.08

## EDITORS' NOTE
### The eighth semester stretch

It's the title coveted by students from the first day of ninth grade onward: second semester senior. Other than your impending departure (via graduation, you hope), as a second semester senior you look forward to prom planning and the envy of underclassmen. After completing seven grueling semesters, seniors long for May 12, the day project cuts short your high school experience by a month.

WESLEY LOWERY

That is, if you can track down a non-family member sponsor (but your best friend's mom will do), manage a "C" in all of your classes (you may have to dress for gym a few times) and meet a deadline or two each month (easily the hardest of the eligibility requirements), you can cut those last 18 weeks down to a mere 14.

Of course, senior project lets you give back to the community while gaining valuable experience and contacts within your field of interest which means, for most Shaker students, you can follow your pediatrician around just like you always wanted to (unless painting your likeness in a mural on a school wall is *too tempting to resist).*

ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN

*But en route to this laudable goal, seniors must honor one little rule* that packs a big punch: exceed seven excused absences and you're stuck in P.E until June 5. The number seven pervades the thoughts of Shaker seniors. And if you plan on attending in Lawn Day, cut that to six.

Forced to carefully budget everything from sick days to Wendy's runs, project-bound seniors must determine how bad that upper respiratory infection actually is. Conveniently missing that vocabulary test is no longer a viable option. College visits and SGORR days provide much-needed respite to many class-stricken seniors and while field trip invites are always nice, be prepared to verify the school-excused nature of the trip before you turn in any permission slips.

Rumors abound that there are ways to get around the suddenly strict school attendance policy. You can pitch your case to the senior project team and hope that they take up your cause. But there are no guarantees, and seniors aren't willing to take the chance of spending an additional four weeks at 15911 Aldersyde Drive.

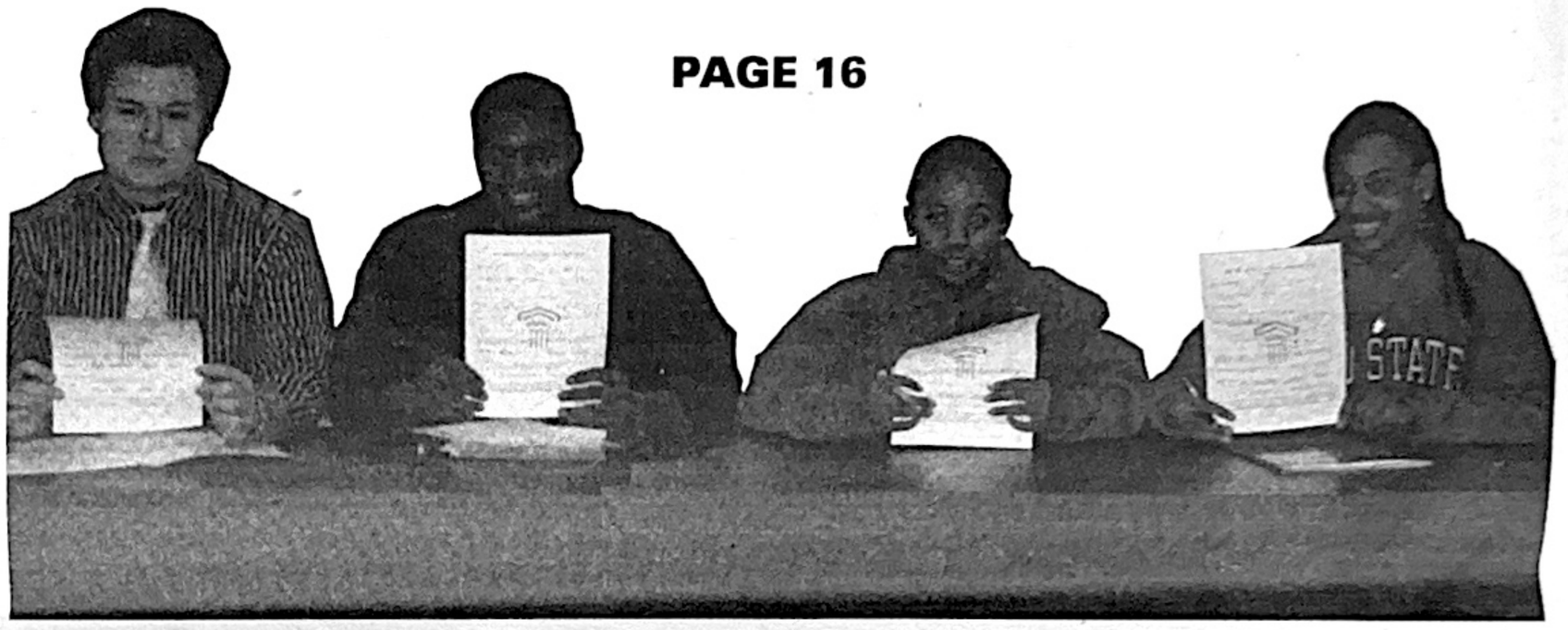
Before now, skipping class rarely caused tangible consequences – only a cut-call and a few docked points. But now that seniors personally feel the penalty for cutting class, their attendance record has never been better. The fact is: if you're going on project, you're going to class. But for those seniors who, rather than scheduling their 11th college visit to John Carroll, are finding their way to each and every class, the stringent attendance requirement allows you to revisit the academic oldies you've ignored for so long.

Remember, although you may dread actually attending those electives you signed up for, each minute spent in class now is paying for a precious four weeks later.

## TAKING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**AMID THE RECENT KEVIN HART RECRUITMENT SCANDAL , RAIDER ZONE EXAMINES THE ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

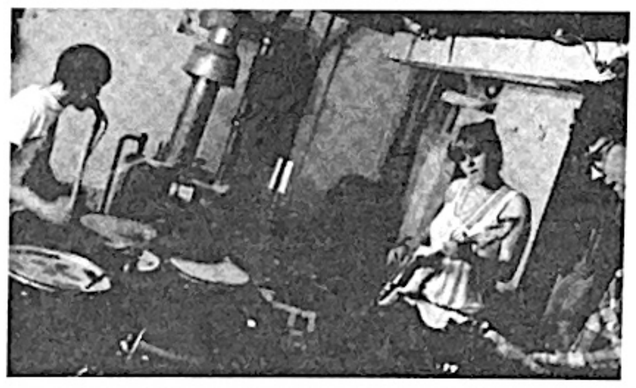
**PAGE 16**



## AFTER SCHOOL JAM SESSIONS

**BALANCING PRACTICE AND HOMEWORK, STUDENTS MEMBERS EXPRESS THEIR LOVE OF MUSIC BY FORMING THEIR OWN BANDS**

**PAGE 8**



## A WEEK FOR LANGUAGE

**SHAKER WENT INTERNATIONAL FEB. 4 DURING FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK. LANGUAGE CLASSES COVERED THE WALLS WITH INFORMATIVE SIGNS AND STUDENTS TRIED OUT AUTHENTIC FOOD IN AFTER SCHOOL SALES.**

**PAGE 4**

**THE SHAKERITE**

**Volume 78 • Issue 6**

**2007 Editorial Board of *The Shakerite.***

**All rights reserved**

Wesley Lowery* Allison Scharfstein* **Editors in Chief** • Bobby O'Connor **Managing Editor** • Alexa Sykes **Noteworthy Editor** • Josh Davidson* Lena Newman* **Shaker Speaks Editors** • Diana Jack Adria Kinney **The Beat Editors** • Kelsey DeForest* Simone Duval Colin Jackson **Limelight Editors** • Teddy Cahill Josh Curry Mike Young **Raider Zone Editors** • Abby Schiller **This Month Editor** • John Fletcher **Design Editors** • Su Dong **Photo Editor** • Joanna Mitchell **Art Editor** • Kate Naugle **Business Manager** • Alyssa Cohen **Copy Editor** • Natalie Sekicky **Adviser** • Julia Celeste, Victoria Fydrych, Emily Gross-Rosenblatt, Emma Bresnahan **Reporters** • Joe Schorgl **Artists** *Denotes editorial board member • **Letters** Letters to the editor must be signed and may not exceed 300 words. Letters, subscription and advertising inquiries should be delivered to The Shakerite office in Room 229, mailed to: The Shakerite, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120, or emailed to shakerite@shaker.org. The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter to the editor • **Advertising Inquiries** Advertising questions should be directed to Kate Naugle at shakerite@shaker.org or 216.295.6210 • **Disclaimer** Opinions expressed in The Shakerite articles are those of their respective authors, and do not represent the views of The Shakerite, Shaker Heights High School or the Shaker Heights City School District. The "Rite Idea" presents the views of the editorial board; however, it may not reflect the opinion of The Shakerite staff. The Shaker Speaks skybox reflects the views of the Shaker Speaks editors. The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times a year for and by students of Shaker Heights High School. Readers may reach The Shakerite at 216.295.6210. The Shakerite is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Northeast Ohio Scholastic Press Association.

## NO LONGER BROWN-BAGGING IT

**DESPITE THE INCREASING TREND TOWARDS THE PLASTIC BAG, SOME STUDENTS REFUSE TO TRASH THEIR LUNCH BAGS**

**PAGE 13**

# This Month

02.29.08

**A MONTH FOR WOMEN**

In 1978, "Women's History Week" was created in Sonoma, California and was centered on March 8th, Women's History Day. In 1987, Congress dedicated the entire month of March to celebrating women's history. Women have a significant voice in the United States today; in the last presidential election 65 percent of women reported voting while just 62 percent of men did. Since 1992 every president has issued a proclamation during March declaring it Women's History Month and with Hillary Clinton as a presidential hopeful in the 2008 election, next year a woman might deliver that proclamation.

Pictured to the left are junior Anna McDonough, sophomore Maeve Willis and junior Katie Crowley. The three competitive Irish dancers will travel to Ireland in March to compete in the world championship. "I'm very excited to go to Ireland," said McDonough, who has been dancing for 11 years.

# MARCH

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | HUG YOUR CAT DAY | | |
| 2 | 3 Periods 1, 2, 3, 10 School ends at 3:11 | 4 Periods 4-10 School ends at 3:11 | 5 Periods 1-8 School ends at 3:15 | 6 Periods 4-10 School ends at 3:11 | 7 Periods 1, 2, 3, 9 School ends at 3:11 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 Afroman at Peabody's Downunder @ 7p.m. | 21 NO SCHOOL Good Friday | 22 |
| 23 Easter | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 BUNSEN BURNER DAY Start of Spring Break | | | | | |

OGT TESTING
Classes begin at 11:39 a.m.

Science teacher John O'Verko believes Bunsen Burners get a bit too much credit, "If Bunsen Burners get a day, hot plates should get a week," he said.

## Students' St. Patrick's day celebrations leave little time for school

St. Patrick's Day is a favorite among Shaker students for all sorts of reasons—to see the parade, a chance to reconnect with their Irish heritage, or just an excuse to skip school and drink beer.

This year the holiday falls on a Monday, leaving many students with the decision to go to class or skip to celebrate. For senior Pat Hyland, going to school on St. Patrick's Day is not an option; his parents excuse him from class every year. Hyland is 50 percent Irish and he takes his heritage seriously.

"Everyone thinks Irish culture is just about corned beef, beer and potatoes, but it's full of history and hardships," Hyland said. Every year he celebrates his heritage on St. Patrick's Day by going to the parade downtown and eating corned beef.

Hyland is not the only Shaker student to enjoy the St. Patrick's Day parade; senior Kate McCormick also goes to the parade with friends. As far as missing school goes, McCormick puts the holiday at the top of her to-do list.

"It doesn't matter if I have school because I prioritize," McCormick said. The Cleveland St. Patrick's Day parade began in 1867, making it the oldest in the state. The parade begins around 1 p.m. and starts at East 18th and Superior and eventually disbands behind the Cleveland Public Library.

## ON TO BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS

annecochran.com

Anne Cochran graduated from Shaker in 1977 and has been touring with fellow Shaker alum, Jim Brickman, for over a decade. Cochran has performed all over the country-- from Madison Square Garden to the NBA Women's Finals, making Shaker proud everywhere she goes.

allamericanspeakers.com

Carol Pineau also graduated from Shaker in 1977 and jumped into the field of journalism. Pineau has spent over a decade covering Africa and her documentary Africa Open for Business was voted the BBC Documentary of the year.

Compiled by Abby Schiller

**LARGE AUDITORIUM OPENS**

A Feb. 2 choir and band concert marked the unveiling of the renovated Large Auditorium. The Shaker Heights Building Department issued a verbal temporary occupancy load, a permit allowing occupancy of the space for 30 days, days before the opening. Before the auditorium can receive final approval, all final inspections of the plumbing, electrical, fire alarms, sprinkler system and emergency lighting must occur and the permits for the work must be closed out. The only remaining inspection is of the emergency lighting, which will likely occur the week of Feb. 25.

NoteWorthy
02.29.08

# CULTURE CRAZE CONSUMES SHAKER

**BY VICTORIA FYDRYCH AND EMILY GROSS-ROSENBLATT**
STAFF REPORTERS

"Decrouvéz le Français!" "Geniuses speak German!" "Take a foreign language!"

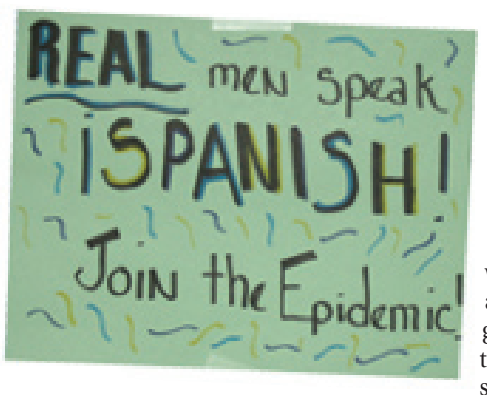
In hopes of recruiting new students to take a language, these signs covered school walls during foreign language week Feb. 4-8.

"We decided to have a week to celebrate learning languages and remind or tell everyone how important it is to be multilingual," French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik stated in an email interview. "As foreign language teachers, we know the growing importance of learning a language . . . as a department, we thought it was crucial for students to understand, that, though not a school requirement, languages have become a necessity to thrive in today's world."

Despite the importance of language study, students sometimes drop language courses because they are challenging. Freshman Taylor Tugard said that foreign language class proved too time consuming. "I had a lot of work in my other classes," said Tugard, who decided to drop Spanish.

Fellow freshman Jake Scholl said that his Chinese class "seemed like a good idea the time, but turned out to be kind of boring."

Senior Greg van Lunteren used to take both Spanish IV and Chinese I, but also "stopped because it was too much work."




According to Gyurgyik, the goal of Foreign Language Week was to encourage foreign language students to continue their studies.

The week proved to motivate previously disinterested students. Van Lunteren was inspired "to learn a bit of German" by reading labels posted all around the school, and junior Robert Taylor said, "My friends were influenced to pick up a language."

Decorative posters and signs adorned the halls and attracted students to try new foods, learn fun facts and experience the culture of another country.

"This week was really successful. I saw French and German signs all over the school," freshman Laura Wadsworth said.

"We wanted to expose people to the German language so we labeled [the school]," junior Kevin Benton said. Students participated in cultural activities, many of which involved sampling food prepared by members of foreign language clubs. The German Club's food sold on the first day. Samples included bratwurst, sauerkraut and an array of desserts. "The German food was the best," freshman Josh Tallman said. "The plum tart was delicious."

The next day, French Club members prepared foods such as crepes and bouche de Noelle, a French Christmas cake.

Spanish Club members offered a variety of dishes from Spanish speaking countries including quesadillas and non-alcoholic sangria. Freshman Sabrina Paskewitz said, "It was really good. They had a large selection of food from different countries." The dishes were arranged in a classroom, and students paid $1 to enter and taste the dishes. "I enjoyed the authentic Spanish food more than fast food Spanish foods like Chipotle and Taco Bell," sophomore Ryan Thurman said. In addition to the sale of foreign foods, the department also arranged activities to encourage students to sign up for new languages.

Spanish Culture Club created a scavenger hunt where students answered questions in hopes of winning a Chipotle gift card. Also, students were encouraged to purchase Mardi Gras beads in support of French Club for $1 each. French Club also submitted trivia as part of the celebration, such as in France, one week comprises eight days, and two weeks 15 days. Gyurgyik also stated that foreign and cultural films, such as Disney's "Mulan," were screened during the week in the Small Auditorium.

"I thought it was a really good idea," junior Lucas Carrion said. "I think it was useful for students who didn't take a foreign language."

Su Dong • The Shakerite

LABELS COVERED THE halls in an attempt to teach students school vocabulary terms in different languages.

# Misinformed French journalist bashes Shaker legacy and reputation

**BY ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

International news agency Agence France-Presse issued an apology and directed readers to visit the Shaker Heights website following an erroneous article published about Shaker Heights Jan. 27.

In an article written by French reporter Luc Olinga for the news agency, Shaker Heights was described as the Mecca of home foreclosures and the heart of a devastating mortgage crisis. The city described in the article was not Shaker however, but rather Mount Pleasant, a neighborhood in Cleveland. The article details the difficulties of homeowners to afford their monthly payments and the resulting flight from town following foreclosures. The story describes the plight of "9422 Chagrin Street" (a nonexistent address) and other homes that have been stripped of plumbing and aluminum siding by thieves.

Shaker Heights Mayor Earl Leiken was emailed by residents Jan. 27 who had seen the article online and caught the error. In the following days, Leiken received worried calls people who had read the article and were concerned about the condition of the city.

Dann Parker, American and European history teacher, shared the article with his classes. He commented that the spread of the article "is like the old saying 'bad news travels around the world in an instant while good news is still getting its boots on.' "

In response to the false claims Leiken contacted Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis, who was cited in Olinga's article. Rokakis told Leiken that he had not been speaking of Shaker Heights when he was interviewed.At that point, Leiken knew that the article had been fabricated and contacted Peter Mackler, the American editor of the news service."I called this editor who admitted that [the article had been a mistake. He indicated that the article had been killed and would be rewritten." However, Leiken was not satisfied with this solution. "I advised him that this would be helpful but insufficient because the article was still out there," Leiken said.

**Olinga**

In a letter Leiken sent to Mackler, he explained that a simple republishing of the corrected story "will not undo the damage done by the seriously erroneous and partially fabricated article your agency published…The damage to the reputation and good will of the City of Shaker Heights has been significant."

The letter therefore insisted that the agency "immediately publish and disseminate a retraction and correction of the original story that points out specifically that it was grossly in error and apologizing to the people of Shaker Heights for the mistake." Leiken also requested that the retraction and apology be sent to all the same websites and sources as the original article.

"We insisted on the apology and on referring the recipients to our website which of course contains much positive information about our community," Leiken said. "After several discussions, he finally agreed to do that."

The apology explained that the city described in the story was "misidentified as Shaker Heights, a prosperous suburb of Cleveland." The agency's apology also included that it "regrets the error and distress that it has caused to the officials and people of Shaker Heights."

Parker used the article to launch a lesson about propaganda and the subjective way through which historical figures are sometimes evaluated. Sophomore Murphy Metheny said that she was unhappy with the publication of the story. "I thought it gave Shaker a bad name even when it wasn't really about us," Metheny said.

"This shows the power of the press and the need for responsible press," Parker said.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE STORY

The police station parking lot is full. The officers...speak of installing alarms in some of the homes claimed by squatters...

...angry barks of guard dogs [echo] behind a chain link fence...

Trash rustles down the road past rusted barbecues, abandoned furniture, sagging homes and gardens turned to weed...

The massive parking lot of the Eagle Fresh supermarket is empty...

A red, white and blue American flag flies over windows and doors which have been boarded up to keep the drug dealers away...

# SHAKER SPAM A GROWING PROBLEM

SPAM (Two-Line View)
New
Help
From
Received
Subject
No Deposit Required Wed 2/20/2008...
SUSPECT: No Deposit Required
Ramit Alberto Wed 2/20/2008...
SUSPECT: [SPAM] Rock her world again,...
Aden Nelson Thu 2/14/2008 ...
SUSPECT: It is rare opportunity to ...
abcdsauer@gnu-co.com Tue 2/12/2008 ...
SUSPECT: My Heart
Mchael socratous Tue 2/12/2008 ...
SUSPECT: [SPAM] Give your girlfriend M...
Music Nation Mon 2/11/2008...
Music Nation is BRAND NEW DAY
omere Agnani Sat 2/9/2008 1...
SUSPECT: Unlease that watering hose in...
Music Nation Mon 1/21/2008...
Music Nation is HOT BUTTERED SOUL
Barry Anderson Thu 1/17/2008 ...
MOGO media conference updates and a...
BestNewCarRates Mon 1/14/2008...
Great deals on 08 New Cars
ChristianColleges Tue 1/8/2008 7...
Make the right choice for yourself get yo...
info@blacksororityproj... Tue 1/8/2008 1...
Own a piece of history this Founders Day
WorldWinnerPlayerSer... Tue 1/8/2008 1...
Play Bejeweled 2 daily tournaments for c...
GoogleBusiness Tue 1/8/2008 1...
SUSPECT: Online Business success kit
GreatShirt Mon 1/7/2008 ...
Have a tshirt on us
Music Nation Mon 1/7/2008 ...
Master of Puppets
WhiterTeeth Mon 1/7/2008 ...
Look 20 Years Younger in DAYS
info@blacksororityproj... Thu 12/20/200...
Saturday Delivery! In time for Christmas
Bravenet News Thu 12/6/2007 ...
Grow Your Business with Email Newslett...
Bravenet News Wed 12/5/2007...
Which is the right CRM solution? Find out...
Sales Department Mon 11/26/200...
Tennis Warehouse Holiday Sale
Bravenet News Thu 11/15/200...
Grow Your Business with Email Newslett...
top 10
TOP TEN MOST COMMON SPAM SUBJECT LINES
1. eBay Resellers Needed...Find Out More
2. Important Notice
3. Digimax 130
4. Picture Yourself an eBay Millionaire
5. NatWest Bank: Please Confirm Your Data!
6. Unauthorized Access Alert
7. Please confirm your data!
8. Question from eBay Member regarding item
9. Information
10. Software Update
SHAKER'S TOP-NOTCH SPAM SOFTWARE
The Antigen Spam Manager by Microsoft uses multiple techniques to help stop spam before it can impact user productivity. It combines layers of scanning and content filtering into a single solution for complete e-mail security. Antigen is a sever-based anti-spam solution, which means administrators of computer systems can forward spam messages to junk mail folders or to a corporate quarantine, where it can be reviewed, deleted, or forwarded back to the original recipient.
Antigen
Microsoft
Inforgraphic by Bobby O'Connor
Compiled by Alexa Sykes

## • As spam floods Shaker computers, new software may offer solution

**BY JOHN FLETCHER**
DESIGN EDITOR

Want to be the stallion you always wanted to be? Just read Shaker email.

Like any computer network, the Shaker server is not immune to spam. Despite significant efforts to filter out ads for everything from Viagra to Office Depot, unwanted email solicitations flood the system daily.

**Boswell**

Shaker has been using anti-spam software called Antigen for 10 years; it sorts all email that comes through school server and pulls out spam according to pre-programmed or custom criteria (words such as Viagra and meds, for example).

Antigen also reads how many people an email message has targeted.

"If you send 200 million people an email in a day, the machine will guess you're spamming," Network Manager Walter Boswell said. "If you send 200 a day, you go untouched."

You might think an inbox full of saucy ads poses nothing more than an inconvenience that you navigate through and carelessly delete.

But spam, the abuse of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited bulk messages, is the leading cause of computer viruses. Embraced as an economically viable means of advertisement (no postage costs), spam is sent via "zombie networks," otherwise known as virus- or worm-infected computers around the globe. Professional spammers have automated the process, enhancing the number of spam messages sent daily.

Boswell noted a problem over the winter break in which many spam emails were passing Antigen's filters.

He said the spam emails came with innocent message lines such as "from grandma" or from zombie computers, which acquire viruses from spam messages. These viruses allow spammers to control individual computers and email to send spam from people's email accounts.

Boswell said he only occasionally receives complaints from staff about spam and when there is a problem he sends out an update informing staff to inform him about particular messages that make it through Antigen.

Math teacher Walter Slovikovski said he doesn't waste much time on school spam anymore.

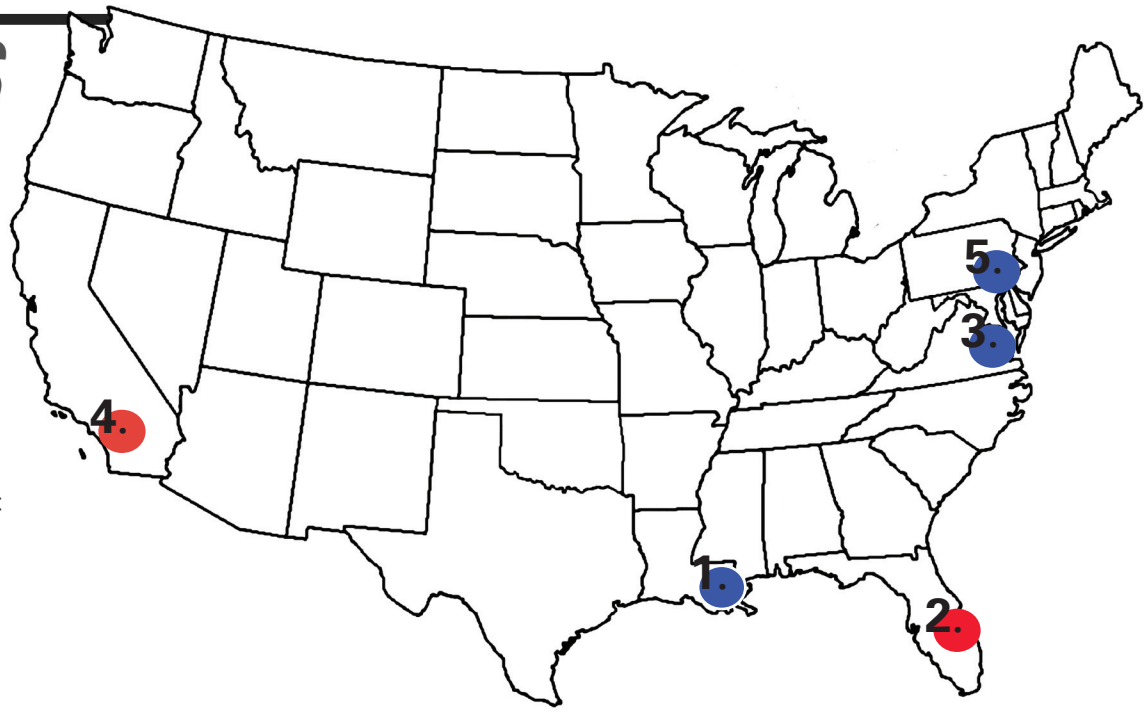
"I don't look at it anymore. I just throw it away if I don't recognize who sent it," said Slovikovski, who receives up to five spam messages a day.

"The most common would consist of watches, Rolex, meds and your nasty content," he said.

Boswell said that a new spam filtering system, Iron Port, was installed districtwide Feb. 21 and is expected to reduce the current levels of spam breaching the current sytem.

> "If you send 200 million people an email in a day, the machine will guess you're spamming."
>
> Walter Boswell
> Network Manager

# USA news




### 1. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Feb. 8 – A nursing student, Latina Williams, 23, at the Louisiana Technical College, shot two female classmates to death before killing herself in front of fellow students. Currently, investigators have established no motive; the victims were identified as Karsheika Graves, 21, and Taneshia Butler, 26. Blake Thibodeaux, a student at the college, mistook the shots for a slammed door and upon investigation saw the shooter fire her last rounds.

### 2. PALM BAY, FLORIDA

Feb. 11 – All 2,550 students of Palm Bay High received automated messages Feb. 8 reminding them that they had detention Saturday morning. A member of the attendance staff had accidentally pushed a button sending the message to every home instead of just the 16 homes it should have gone to. Only 40 students arrived for the detention to learn of the glitch. The notification system averages 20,000 calls a week to parents for student absences, overdue library materials, school events and for emergency communication.

### 3. WASHINGTON

Feb. 6 – A current bill on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives plans to restructure and crack down on the student loan industry. The bill has the approval of the House Education and Labor Committee and would restrict regulators' authority by limiting colleges' access to federal funds if their tuition cost rise drastically. The White House released a statement in opposition to bill, while House Republicans are calling for support for college cost reforms instead. Reuters reported that a spokesman for the committee said the bill is indented to make college more affordable and accessible and that the committee passed it with bipartisan support.

### 4. OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

Feb. 14 – Lawrence King, a 15-year-old student at E.O. Green Junior High School, was shot by a 14-year-old fellow student Feb. 12. King was shot in the back of the head, around 8:15 a.m., while he was in computer lab with 22 classmates. The suspect fled the scene immediately but was apprehended minutes later a few blocks from the school. He was charged with attempted murder. King was declared brain dead Feb. 13 and his body is being maintained on a ventilator for possible organ donation.

### 5. PHILADELPHIA

Feb. 11 – Four individuals broke into Northeast High School and released 85 Rhode Island Red Chickens into the hallways. Police recovered a grainy videotape of the masked male vandals but are unable to identify suspects; they believe that the incident was a senior prank. When maintenance personnel arrived at the school Feb. 11 they discovered the hallways covered in droppings and chicken feed and the lockers painted with the number 167. The graduating seniors are the 167th graduating class of the high school.

The district canceled classes for the school's 3,600 students for the cleanup until the health department declared it sanitary. The cleanup cost the district $5,000. The birds were transported to Fox Chase Farm and the students of Swenson Arts and Technology High School, the district's agricultural school, are caring for them. The school is currently searching for the chickens' owner, but if they are unsuccessful in their search the chickens will be put up for adoption for $4 each.

District officials also were trying to determine why the building's alarm system was not activated when the intruders entered. MSNBC reported that students feel the chicken prank was a good one. "That was awesome. I think -- whoever did it -- that was awesome. Best senior prank ever," A student told MSNBC.

# SUPPORTING STAFF

• It takes more than classroom teachers and administrators for this school to run efficiently. Check out how these support staff members contribute every day.

## Librarian Lawrence lays down the law, one page at a time

BY ALEXA SYKES
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

A haven for a wide variety of books and research materials, the high school library also houses desperate students frantically completing assignments due next period as well as those hiding out from classes they don't want to attend.

Librarian Patti Lawrence would prefer to view it as "a place of quiet study and reflection."

Lawrence

Lawrence, a 21-year SHHS veteran, began as an English teacher and left the classroom to become the head librarian 10 years ago.

According to Lawrence, the library has become much busier since the opening of the cafeteria. "Kids come in here to get their homework done because it is too loud in there," she said. "But I really try to get kids out of here if they have food," she continued, noting that rodents and insects have appeared in the past when students left food in the library. "Then we have to get the custodians in here to spray the place, and I just hate chemicals," she said.

Another challenge Lawrence faces concerns students visiting websites such as Facebook and Myspace. "I can't stand there and monitor them . . . but it's a big problem," Lawrence said, who emphasizes limiting unproductive time on computers. She also struggles with social gatherings around the PCs. "When kids come in big groups and make noise, that's when I get frustrated . . . kids can get pretty nasty about getting off the computer," she said.

Lawrence notices patterns of student library use throughout the year. At the beginning of the semester when there is not much work, the library mostly remains quiet and idle. Once the semester progresses and schoolwork picks up, the library becomes extremely busy and the librarians are swarmed with individual concerns. "There are a huge number of kids that need individual help," she said. Lawrence feels that working at Shaker is an enriching experience. She appreciates the diverse student body the most. "I have thought about working at other libraries but this school is special. I love the diversity and can't imagine working in a homogeneous place," she said. Beyond Shaker's uniqueness, Lawrence expresses a deep passion for reading and literature. "It's fun to order new books, that's a blast," she said. Rather than relying on reviews of titles, Lawrence reads the same books students do in order to provide her personal recommendations. "Young adult fiction is really popular at this age I've noticed," she said.

Lawrence's dedication is further evidenced by her presence in the library every period of the day with the exception of a lunch and planning period.

Su Dong • The Shakerite
LIBRARIAN PATTI LAWRENCE often recommends books she's read herself.

Su Dong • The Shakerite
ALICE KUTIL RUMMAGES through file cabinets filled with thousands of college transcripts and records of current and previous students from Shaker since 1993.

## Mrs. Kutil travels down road to college with 1800 students

In a hidden guidance department office cluttered with binders housing thousands upon thousands of college transcripts resides Alice Kutil, 30-year Shaker employee and 1956 alumna.

"Only seniors appreciate what I do; underclassmen don't have a clue," Kutil said, who meets with about 20 to 30 students daily. Kutil returned to Shaker in 1978 and worked at the Administration Building as a secretary for the superintendent for nine years. She later transferred to the high school, where she has worked for the past 21 years.

"On paper, I am the Clerical Supervisor or perhaps the department head for the high school clerical persons," explained Kutil, who manages college applications, verifies student enrollment, and sends out transcripts and test scores and medical chart copies for graduates and students who have withdrawn from Shaker. She also provides proof of attendance for current Shaker students, evaluates transcripts for new and returning students, and manages withdrawal and expulsion paper work. Her office also provides back up for grade changes sent by teachers to data processing.

Kutil

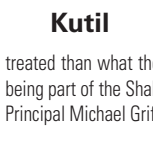
"I am always busy," Kutil said. "Some days I feel like I am the only one who can answer questions that come in my phone."

After being in and out of Shaker throughout the past 50 years, Kutil has noticed several changes between generations. She explained that in the '50s, students were much more polite."We didn't have any rights—those happened in the '70s . . . so we were afraid to misbehave," she said. She feels that students now are more concerned about how they are treated than what they learn. While her job is very demanding but sometimes overlooked, Kutil still appreciates being part of the Shaker district. "I do enjoy my job . . . I work closely with the guidance counselors, secretaries and Principal Michael Griffith," she said.

## Tackling those textbooks day by day

Wedged among thousands of stacked books ranging from Shakespeare to Foundations Biology, Nancy Schachtel spends most of her school day distributing, organizing and repairing books in Room 117, more popularly known as "the book room." A long-term substitute for 30-year Shaker employee Loretta Medve, Schachtel has taken over after Medve suffered a heart attack in mid-January. Although successfully recovering, Medve will not return to school until March, leaving Schachtel in charge of 1,800 students' books.

A typical day for Schachtel in the textbook office involves rebinding, ordering and scanning books into the system for eight of the 10 daily periods. "I guess I'm entitled to a lunch break, but I often don't take one because there's always someone coming in," she said. During the busiest times of the school year, the beginning and end of each semester, Schachtel said that up to 15 classes per day visit the bookroom. However, for most of the year, the textbook office stays pretty idle. Schachtel, a two-year Shaker employee, is an administrative substitute who fills in for various support staff. "I can sub for library staff, too, or in the main office," she said. However, Schachtel said she enjoys working in the textbook office the most. "I do enjoy this job. I work with Mrs. Medve during busy times in the school year," she said. While the job might seem stress-free, Schachtel notices the lackadaisical habits that students display regarding book care. "People come in and pay for books they've lost . . . some come after graduation because you can't get your diploma until you pay for all the books," she said. In addition to not receiving a diploma, failure to return books creates a shortage of books for certain classes, either causing taxpayers to spend unnecessary money to replace them, or students missing a required textbook for an entire semester. "We call book suppliers to see how cheap we can get [replacements], but it's really hard when kids keep losing books," she said.


Schachtel

"Mrs. Lawrence is very helpful, but kind of intimidating at times."

Jack O'Halloran
Freshman

"I think the book ladies do a good job even though there's not much to do."

Dorothy Ajayi
Freshman

"I think the librarians are a lot more helpful than people think."

Ayanna Smith
Junior

"I don't spend much time in the library or the book office at all."

Victoria Flynn
Freshman

**CLEVELAND'S INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS**

The Cleveland International Film Festival will be held March 6-16. The Cleveland Film Society, runs the festival, screens more than 130 feature films and 160 short films from more than 50 countries. Advanced tickets are $9 for members and $11 for non-film society members. Films run at Tower City Center from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. with midnight movies offered on Fridays and Saturdays. FilmSlam, March 10 to March 14, is a mini-festival of films specifically selected for a student audience. Tickets for FilmSlam are just $5 and classes are particularly encouraged to attend as free study guides are provided to guide class discussions.

# CREATIVITY ENCOURGAGED IN STUDIOS AND CORE CLASSES

## • Teachers bring artistic, visual projects, presentations into academic classes

**BY KELSEY DEFOREST**
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Create a visually appealing poster that employs design elements to convey information.

Sounds like an art assignment, right? Yet academic teachers are incorporating visual projects, similar to the description above, into their curricula to bring creativity into every classroom.

Art in academic classes differs from typical artwork.

"They are [a] different level of art. [Instead of being] strictly interested in aesthetics, presentation boards should be interested in aesthetics and content," said fine arts Daniel Whitely.

Given that aesthetic requirement, do art students have an edge in creating visuals for academic classes?

"If they just did crappy art, they wouldn't understand about color and everything, but, if they had studied fine art, it might be . . . better," said freshman Heidi Reis.

Whitely sees art experience as an advantage. "First of all, in art you are learning the elements and principles of design and style and that can help you with presentation boards, PowerPoint presentations and even designing web pages for projects," he said. "Design is the base for everything. . . . An artist has that toolbox to pull from."

Although artistic students may excel on visual projects, this is usually balanced out by other academic requirements. "Students who are more artistic do not always excel at paper and pen assignments," Spanish teacher Kimberly Ponce de León said. "To give students who excel in the arts an alternative type of assignment gives them a chance to do well," she added.

Ponce de León feels that alternative, creative projects, such as the paper máche project she added this year, "give students an opportunity to be expressive in an artistic manner." These projects are her attempt to address all styles of learning.

Biology teacher Jesse Williams assigns "arts and crafts that try to integrate art with science." Williams has students create 3-D models, poster boards and PowerPoints. "I try to integrate art and science to try to bring out creativity in students," he said.

Artistic assignments provide new ways of acquiring and remembering class material. Williams said artistic assignments allow students to "take control of their own learning process." He said, "I try to bring in a creative edge to give kids an ownership of their learning."

"Another way of showing intelligence is your ability to rather eclectically put things together," said Dann Parker, who teaches AP U.S. and AP Modern European History.

National History Day, a long-term research project completed in several AP history classes, stands out as a project that can demand artistic input.

"What we like about the National History Day experience for kids is it allows them to tap into those other talents and skill, especially the creative side," said American history teacher Tim Mitchell.

Junior Bradley Ross, who created a NHD board about Toussaint L'Overture, sees a background in art as an advantage. "[Artistic students] have better knowledge and understanding of how to lay out a poster board and make it artistic," he said.

> "I try to bring in a creative edge to give kids an ownership of their learning."
> Jesse Williams
> Biology teacher

### top 5 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR ORAL PRESENTATION

• If artsy assignments really aren't your thing, get an edge up in public speaking

1. **KNOW YOUR MATERIAL**
Pick a topic you are interested in and know more about it than you plan to include in your presentation.

2. **PRACTICE**
Rehearse out loud with all your props. Breathe. Repeat.

3. **CONCENTRATE ON THE MESSAGE**
Pay attention to what you want to get across, not your personal anxiety. Visualize your own success.

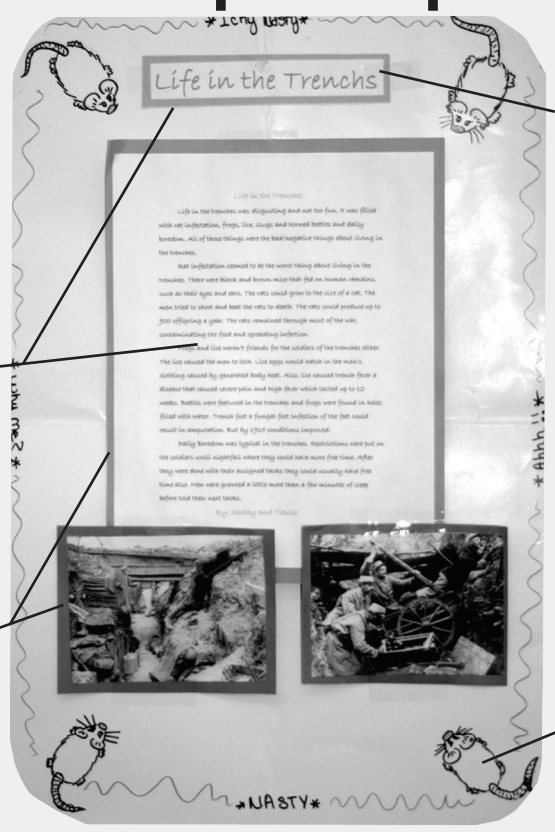
4. **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE**
Greet your friends as the come in. It will help calm you down and put the presentation in perspective.

5. **RELAX**
If you feel yourself start to get nervous, take a breath. Transform anxiety into enthusiasm.

Compiled by Kelsey DeForest
Information from Toastmasters.org

## How to excel at creative poster presentations

For all of you who panic when you are assigned a visual project, here are some basic tips for how to score high on you next poster.




**KEEP TITLES SHORT**
Titles should highlight your subject matter. Titles should either suggest a question of answer one as a basic rule. Avoid cute phrases, but puns can be successful at times.

**GO FOR SIMPLE, EASY-TO-READ FONTS**
Although there are a lot of fun font options out in the internet, readability should always be a principal concern. Type with serifs, the little tips that are missing on fonts such as Arial, is easier to read and has fewer ambiguous letters

**DON'T FORGET TO ALWAYS K.I.S.S. IT**
Keep it simple, stupid. Your poster should, in most cases, be a visual accessory to an oral presentation. Do not overcrowd your poster; make sure everything on your board has a purpose.

**USE COLOR, JUST NOT TOO MUCH**
Color attracts attention to your project. Always use it to try to convey additonal meanings. Think about the colors you are using to avoid a disaster such as dark red on navy blue. Neon colors should be avoided because they can actually detract from your project. Limit yourself to a maximum of four colors to keep away from a rainbow effect. Also go for color more than patterns.

**PULL IN YOUR AUDIENCE**
Try to have a visual draw to attract attention to your project. Make sure they won't zone out while you present.

Compiled by Kelsey DeForest
Information from "Do's and Don'ts of Poster Presentations" by Steven M. Block

# Stitching up the cultural divide

Throughout history styles of dress among African Americans and their Caucasian counterparts have differed; it's just a fact of life.

Black people simply dress uniquely. Flipping through Gristmills of the '70s, the difference between ruffled shirts in wild patterns and the button down collar of the white masses is far from small.

COLIN JACKSON

Black fashion has come a long way from only three summers ago when 3XL white tees were the must-have item.

These toga-like tees became so popular, Dem Franchise Boys even devoted a whole song to them. The super sized shirts were, to say the least, polar opposites of the country club look that featured clean-cut polo shirts and khakis.

The clothing truly depicts separation of culture and lifestyle.Clothes represent culture. Orthodox Jewish women, to this day, wear ankle-length skirts. The culture and tradition of any group will naturally fuse, creating a unique style. The clothing, no matter how simple or outlandish, makes a statement about cultural identity.

I remember the jersey craze that swept black fashion in 2004, making an authentic Nike Swing Man Jersey an outfit in its own right. I am not calling the coveted 1996 black Bulls pinstriped Michael Jordan jersey a religious garb, but it's close.

Then, it was all over -- oversized tees and size 40 jeans on a guy who could hula-hoop with a Cheerio, were wack. The trend abruptly changed to True Religion jeans that start at slender size 28.

Stores once synonymous with the American prepster lifestyle were now overrun by a black generation -- the rockstar generation. Now, being a rock star didn't mean you actually had to have listened to rock music. All the trends traditionally associated with a culture of white privilege now became part of the minority wardrobe.

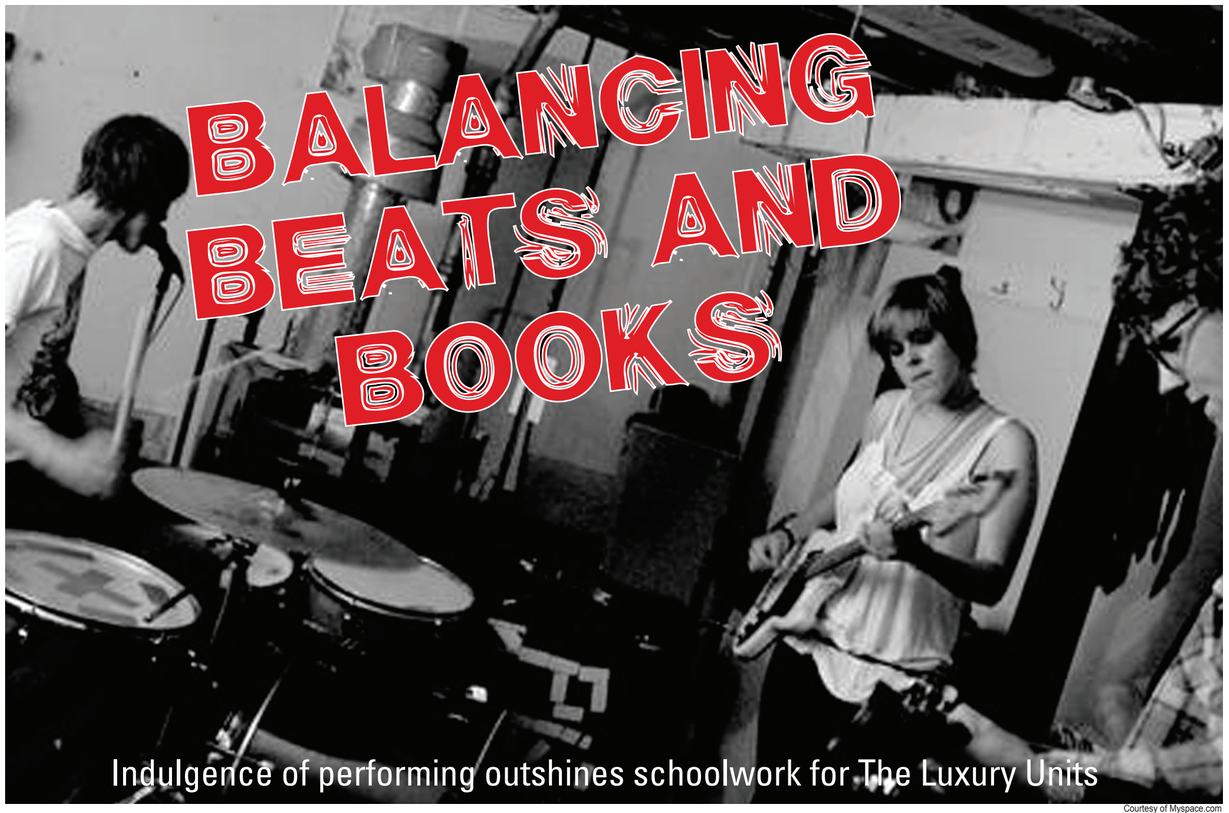
Assimilation is the word to describe this cultural merger. Once, clothes laid the lines of class, color and creed; however, post Kanye West revolution, Afro-fashion embraced more mainstream labels. Brands such as Lacoste and Abercrombie and Fitch became black fashion favorites.

Polo, once reserved for the uppercrust caucasions of America, was now as popular in East Cleveland as in was in Chagrin Falls. Two towns of radicallly different ethnicity and economic background are now united under one universal symbol, the infamous Polo man.

Full-faced zippered hoodies with loud and at times obnoxious graphic prints were replaced by skinny faced blazers that scream sophistication.

Blending of the two cultures is not unique to fashion. History exhibits repeated examples of white and black cultural exchange, whether in music or, more recently , fashion. In its most recent incarnation, fashion minimizes the gap between the white majority and the ethnic minority.

I am not saying that sharing the same style is going to stop war or end racial tension. But, any time two groups come together under a common identity -- fashion or otherwise -- is a good thing. Such mergers create forums for discussion, which is the only pathway to racial equality -- even if it's just the new Nike SB Dunks.



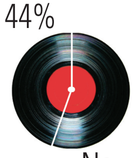
# BALANCING BEATS AND BOOKS

## Indulgence of performing outshines schoolwork for The Luxury Units

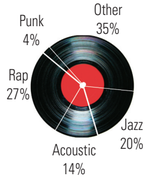
Courtesy of Myspace.com

BAND MEMBERS JOE Schorgl, Alex Anthes, and Leo Brochu practice in Brochu's basement. "We never practice until the day before the show. And we maybe have a show maybe once or twice a month," said Schorgl. "The Luxury Units" has been performing since the summer of 2007.

**WOULD YOU PLAY IN AN INDEPENDENT BAND IN HIGH SCHOOL?**




**IF SHAKER STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A HIGH SCHOOL BAND, THEY WOULD PLAY:**




Scientific telephone poll of 100 Shaker students, margin of error +/- 10.0 percent.

**BY SIMONE DUVAL**
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

"Dutch-pop/ghetto-tech/visual experience."

Does this musical genre sound familiar?

Probably not -- unless you're a member of The Luxury Units, a trio comprising two Shaker students and one alumna.

The compound category sums up how band members Joe Schorgl, senior, and Leo Brochu, junior, describe the music they play with Alex Anthes ('07).

Pressed for an explanation of this unique genre, the band mates suggest noisy vocals and influences from The Ramones.

"People like to call it punk, but it's rock 'n' roll," Schorgl said.

Taking a cue from a sign advertising "Luxury Units for Rent," the band, The Luxury Units, began when one of Schorgl and Brochu's initial groups didn't look like it was going anywhere. Moreover, as her band mate was heading off to college, Anthes also found herself looking for a new band. The three befriended one another, and when Schorgl and Brochu chose to scrap their old band and start fresh, they invited Anthes to join. With all three members singing vocals, and Schorgl on drums, Anthes on bass guitar and Brochu on electric guitar, the group soon started looking around for shows to play.

"We learned from our mistakes, that if you just keep trying to write songs and get better, you're not going to get anywhere. You just have to set a show and then you get better," Schorgl said.

Their first show, at the Beachland Ballroom in summer of 2007, did have its share of mishaps.

"I dropped my guitar and then [Schorgl] picked it up and I fell down. [Schorgl] started playing 'Dueling Banjoes' [on the guitar] and then I tackled him," Brochu said.

The on-stage disaster ended with a victory hug between the two band mates. Though their first performance was ironically their biggest show, and the only one they were scarcely compensated for, the band decided that the thrill of performing far outweighed the paltry payment.

"It was really exciting. I was nervous, but a good kind of nervous," Anthes said of The Luxury Units debut.

From there, the band went on to play at Now That's Class on the East Side of Cleveland; The Tower 2021 on Madison Avenue; The Grog Shop at Coventry; and most recently returned to play at the Beachland Ballroom Feb. 1. Units has performed about 13 times, which is coincidentally the same figure as the band's number of written tracks. The band collaborates on the songs. One member may have the guitar part down, while someone else may compose the lyrics.

"We all kind of have our way of putting our own two cents in," as Anthes puts it.

Though in the beginning Units aimed at practicing once a week, they find themselves only rehearsing the night before shows. This, coupled with performances on school nights, can make the band members a little tired for school the next day, but so far the stage life hasn't provoked any major conflicts with schoolwork. And anyway, as Brochu said, "I pretty much choose practice over my homework."

And their practice has paid off. Amid rumors of signing with an independent record company, Units has continued to practice and prepare for their next gig Feb. 27 at Now That's Class on the west side of Cleveland. However, the band has denied any plans to create a CD with an indie label. In lieu of recording their original songs on their own mix CDs, the Units instead records over old cassette tapes they acquire from thrift stores.

"So if you buy a tape, half of it is us and the other half of it is, 'Chicago'," Brochu said.

> "I dropped my guitar and then [Schorgl] picked it up and I fell down. [Schorgl] started playing 'Dueling Banjoes' [on the guitar] and then I tackled him."
>
> Leo Brochu • junior

• Between homework, practice and booking gigs, high school bands have a lot on their plates. Here's an inside look at some of Shaker's up-and-coming musical groups.

## Shaker-Beachwood band rocks out at Battle of Bands

**BY JULIA CELESTE**
STAFF REPORTER

Junior Daniel Bardenstein has teamed up with Beachwood juniors Eli Sciborowski and Jeremy Harris and sophomore Sam Terekel to form the band Manger Danger. And while their unique name seems to imply a religious connotation, Bardenstein insists that it's merely a play on words.

"Daniel and I had been playing around with names and stuff like that for a long time and ['Manger Danger'] just came to us," Harris said. Bardenstein also confirmed the fact that the name has no religious meaning and "just sounds funny."

The band began when Harris introduced Bardenstein to Terkel and Sciborowski, "as possible band mates, or just chill kids we could jam with," Bardenstein said.

From there, the quartet began to hold regular 'jamming sessions' and started writing songs. A 'jam session', as defined by Merriam-Webster is an "often impromptu performance by a group especially of jazz musicians that is characterized by improvisation."

"Our styles of playing mix really well; no matter what we play, it always sounds good," Harris said.

Although Manger Danger has been together for about a year, they have only played for one formal show, which was at the Beachwood Battle of the Bands at Beachwood High School. Although Manger Danger didn't win the competition, Bardenstein said the show "went real well," and a former judge told Bardenstein that, in his opinion, Manger Danger should have won.

According to Bardenstein, the judges were grading on a different scale then they had in the past, and placed more emphasis on vocals. This proved to be a disadvantage for the bause Manger Danger focuses much more on instrumentals than they do on vocals.

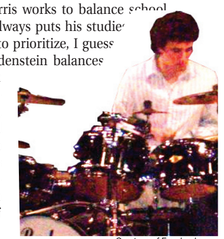
The band is also trying to showcase their talents at new performance places. "We have a few tentative [venues] as of right now. We are trying to work something out for the Grog Shop and at a local festival, but nothing is set in stone yet," Bardenstein said.

Junior Loren Shatten attended the Battle of the Bands and enjoyed the show. "I thought they were all really talented," she said. She added that Manger Danger focused more heavily on their instrumentals than did other bands, which made them "very unique in their style."

The band has no plans to stay together after graduation, but they plan on musical majors. "It depends on what Daniel and I do in terms of college. We aren't thinking that far in advance right now," Harris said.

"My family is more than supportive for [a] high school career, but they're not too hot on the idea of me becoming a full time musician," added Bardenstein.

Although Harris works to balance school and music, he always puts his studies first. "You have to prioritize, I guess," Harris said. Bardenstein balances his schoolwork and band duties with ease, saying, "all will be well," though he participates in many musical groups both in and out of school.



Courtesy of Facebook.com

## Baguette Quartet livens up Panera Bread establishment

**BY KELSEY DEFOREST**
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

There is more than just bread rising at Panera.

Four students, jokingly referred to as the Baguette Quartet, recently got their start as a professional string quartet at Panera Bread.

"We started at Panera, and then the $15,000 question of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire was, 'What is the name of a traditionally cut diamond and a French bread?' And it was baguette. So we are the bread and the diamond quartet," said junior Jillian Boyd, who plays violin.

"We don't have a real name right now but we will come up with something," junior Erica Salone said.

Salone, Senior Sarah Edgerton (viola) and junior Taylor Smith (cello) complete the quartet. "We had been friends before that but it was really just a spur of the moment thing," Salone said.

Simone Duval • The Shakerite

The spur of the moment found them playing at Panera Bread during the holidays. "It was supposed to be a one week thing but the manager wanted us back," Boyd said, "so we played during the whole holiday season."

"In November, one of the managers, Mandy Snyder, asked me if I had any students who would be able to provide holiday music at Panera on the weekends of December," said orchestra director Donna Dehn, who provides the music, mostly classical, for the quartet to play at their gigs. "So I asked all my classes if anyone was interested in putting groups together to play at Panera and that they were welcome to do it."

Panera fostered their talents and maintained their loyalty. "They did a great job," Snyder said. "All of my customers, Monday through Friday, would come in and rave about them."

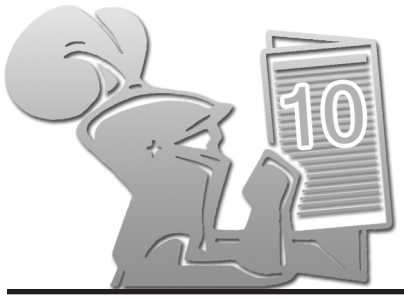
"This particular quartet was the one that probably played the most hours and earned the most money in tips," Dehn noted. "They played, probably, a solid four hours a weekend for maybe four weeks."

Playing at Panera has also led to other gigs. The group played at the library tea during finals. Smith said the quartet would play at the Snyder's wedding later this month. "They're like the stars of my wedding," Snyder said. Additionally, the quartet will be playing at several Shaker elementary schools later this semester.

"Whenever anybody asks me if I have a group that could play, I naturally think of them because they practice a lot, they've already gotten a lot of experience playing out in the community and they seem to want to keep doing it," Dehn said.

Both Edgerton and Boyd have been playing string instruments since they were 6. All members expressed interest in continuing to play professionally for which they could receive approximately $100 an hour as professional musicians at weddings and other functions.

"They are totally running themselves. I am just providing music and a little guidance," Dehn said. "This is something they are doing just for the love of it and that, I think, is why they are having so much success -- because they are really into it."




**LOSE THE LOGO**

With spring training just beginning for the Cleveland Indians, it's time at last to ditch the Chief Wahoo logo that has caused so much controversy. The team has recently scaled back their use of the offensive Native American caricature, replacing Chief Wahoo on uniform hats with a script "I," but that's not enough. If the team were really serious about getting rid of the racist logo, they would stop selling Chief Wahoo merchandise and drop the logo altogether. Perhaps losing the insensitive symbol would boost the team's post-season hopes.

Shaker Speaks
02.29.08

# Africa merits attention

In the 2004 award-winning movie "Hotel Rwanda" Jean Jacques tells Paul Rusesabagina, "I think if people see this footage they'll say, 'Oh my God, that's horrible,' and then go on eating their dinners."

George Clooney, recently named the United Nations peace envoy, wants to address today's calamities. In a recent interview, the Oscar winner said he hoped to bring some attention to the lesser-known crises of the world. "I want to turn the lights on," Clooney said.

**TEDDY CAHILL**

I truly hope he is able to at least bring to light many of the tragedies that go unnoticed by the majority of Americans. With media attention concentrated on the campaigns of various presidential candidates and the slumping economy, even the war in Iraq has been relegated to the backseat.

Certainly the lack of coverage is not for a deficiency of wars, riots, areas of political unrest or genocide. In fact all of this can be found in the northeastern corner of Africa alone. The genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan has continued despite the efforts of many people around the world including Clooney, who confounded the humanitarian organization Not on Our Watch, dedicated to bringing peace back to the country.

However, while our attention has been diverted, the once stable country of Kenya has exploded in violence following a disputed election. After the Dec. 27 vote, opposition leader Raila Odinga appeared to open a sizeable lead before incumbent president Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner. This touched off what have become ethnic clashes between the Kikuyu tribe and much of the rest of the country.

With more than 1,000 people dead from the violence, it is time people around the world began to take notice and act. It is important for us to remember that the genocide in Rwanda was over in just 100 days, so in these situations it is vital for the international community to take action to limit the devastation. Or at least realize what is happening so we can make informed decisions.

Just north of Kenya is another stewing war, with peace talks recently renewed. The people of Uganda have endured a civil war for more than 25 years, but an end may be in sight as both sides are now talking with the help of a U.S. observer.

It is this kind of role that can be most helpful from our perspective, but is impossible unless we have a public informed of conflicts around the world.

So it is my challenge to the students of this school to become educated about the turmoil outside America because even we are affected by these situations. So read the articles that fight their way into the Plain Dealer and look to other news outlets, such as the BBC and the Mail & Guardian Online, for a more global perspective. Or you could start by watching a great movie about the war in Uganda called "Invisible Children," which depicts children made homeless each night as they attempt to escape rebels determined to enlist them as soldiers in their conflict.

Help turn on a light to the problems of the whole world, not just the ones in Britney's life.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A THREAT OR NOT! IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PASS, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO WALK TO YOUR LOCKER DURING A LUNCH PERIOD!
MUHAHAHA!!!
(ALIEN FROM "ALIEN")
(MAGNETO)
(GODZILLA)
This is the LAW...

Joe Schorgl • The Shakerite

# The few, the loud, the disgraceful

## • Seniors' behavior reflects apathy toward education, own futures

guest 'rite

I have a confession to make. For almost three years, I have been mooching comfy chairs, paper, writing utensils and computer services from the Shakerite room. I was an aspiring journalist once, but that dream faded into obscurity long ago. Something happened Feb. 6, 2008 that was so humiliating, so infuriating, it has effectively torn me out of my journalistic slumber.

**Robert Abrams**

For readers who were fortunate enough not to witness the incident, the senior meeting on the 6th was a shameful disaster. Students went far beyond wearing hats and talking over the speakers, managing to reach unprecedented lows of playing music, using cell phones and even catcalling Amanda Rabatin, science teacher and senior project advisor, every time she approached and left the podium.

Principal Michael Griffith was kind enough to somehow overlook the conduct and give a laudatory speech, commending the senior class for its ability to adapt to school changes over the last four years.

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, on the other hand, went for the jugular with a far more honest speech, admonishing '08's disgusting conduct and uncertain future.

As sickening as the catcalls were, they could not compare to the feeling Hutchinson evoked when he informed us that a grand total of 58 seniors took the Ohio Graduation Test first semester, and only 21 of them passed. His improvised speech was a powerful and courageous attempt to shake the troubled seniors out of their paralyzing apathy.

I won't waste time sugar-coating this piece with qualifiers. We all know that not every Shaker senior has serious behavior and attitude problems. This is not written to them. I am speaking directly to those of you who seem blissfully unaware of the past, present and future—not only of this school, or of American education, or of society in general, but of your own lives.

Do you not see what is happening all around you? Are you so caught up in the idiotic status symbols and brainless social interactions that you can't even see what lies less than half a year away? What's your big plan, smart guy? Maybe you should consider this next time you're about to make a fool of yourself: over a lifetime, college graduates can expect to make as much as $1 million more than those with the dinky little piece of paper you are (hopefully) so close to being awarded.

As you walk through the halls, take a look around. To your left and right are the people who are going to be sitting cozy in the office with the view while you scour a sticky cup holder in your rusting Oldsmobile for spare change to buy a Big Lotto ticket. Above you are the cameras that were installed because people in the community can't trust you not to hurt or rob their kids. Ahead of you is a life of struggling, behind you, a life of slacking. I would call your attention to the deterioration of the community, but you clearly care about only yourself.

So act in the way you've always acted—selfishly—and try to salvage some sort of hope for a positive, successful future. This is not a motivational speech. This is not a lecture from your parents, or your teachers or any other authority figure whose attempts to set you straight have clearly failed. This is just a peer who can see a little farther down the road, and cannot, in good conscience, breeze on by without warning you of the sharp turn ahead.

A new chapter is starting in your life, and you haven't bothered to open the book. The marathon is entering a new stretch, and you haven't put on your shoes. Wake up. Because when I see you outside the grocery store, rattling an empty tin can, I'll just keep walking.

It isn't that I'm heartless—on the contrary, the heartless thing to do would be to sit back and let the potential competition fall prey to the harsh realities of life beyond high school.

My advice comes purely from an unshakable feeling of genuine concern. Take it or leave it.

# Gearing up for Ohio's presidential primaries

## • Editorial Board endorses Paul and Obama amid media hype

'rite idea

### Republican Ron Paul

As this year's dark horse candidate among the Republican presidential hopefuls, Ron Paul offers a unique platform. The 10-term Congressman from Texas, though often ignored by the mainstream media, has revolutionized Internet campaigning and setting donation records. The Editorial Board believes that, despite his strictly small government stances, Paul offers the best choice on the conservative spectrum.

The issue of Iraq clearly sets Paul apart from his opponents. As a member of the House of Representatives, Paul voted against authorization of the conflict in 2003 and urged Congress to either formally declare war or to avoid a preemptive conflict. Paul views the war as unconstitutional and supports immediate troop withdrawal, a stance that has ostracized him from many mainstream Republicans.

As high school students, the war is the most pressing political issue we face. Our generation will inherit the costs, as well as fight in the conflict. Being the only Republican who stands against this war serves as the basis for our endorsement.

By contrast, McCain's proposed Iraq policy includes committing American troops to Iraq for up to an additional "10,000 years," a claim that, while sarcastic, is no laughing matter. If elected, Huckabee plans to maintain current troop levels in the region.

Paul also distinguishes himself by discussing the adverse economic impact of the current foreign policy. The cost of the global American military presence, specifically in Korea and Germany, remains a fraudulent use of American power. Decades removed from these conflicts, it is no longer necessary to maintain military personnel in these countries.

Though Paul's plans are radical in comparison to McCain and Huckabee, his strong opposition to the war in Iraq and non-interventionist foreign policy act as selling points for the Editorial Board.

Ron Paul

### Democrat Barack Obama

While it was a tough decision, the Editorial Board decided to endorse Barack Obama in the Democratic primary. While we acknowledge Hillary Clinton as the more experienced candidate, Obama's message of change inspired us. We feel his fresh outlook will provide a new perspective to the jaded politics of Washington.

Though both Obama and Clinton oppose the war in Iraq and propose to bring troops home, Obama's voting record more accurately reflects his strong opposition to the war.

We are, therefore, confident of his plan to quickly and efficiently withdraw troops and shift the focus to diplomacy in the Middle East.

On the issue of health care, Clinton and Obama propose similar plans for national coverage. However, Clinton was unable to implement her previous plan during her time as First Lady. We believe it's time for someone else to tackle the health care challenge, and Obama offers a comprehensive plan ensuring every American can receive basic medical care.

Obama is also serious about global warming. He has a detailed plan to reduce our country's carbon emissions and improve our overall energy efficiency. Obama wants to work with factories to promote green technology and implement increased use of biofuels, thus reducing our dependency on foreign oil.

The intangibles for Barack Obama far outweigh those going for Clinton. He is a charismatic and inspiring speaker who seems genuine in his desire to implement change. He brings a younger perspective that has engaged a new and previously apathetic generation with politics. This generation is the future of our country and involving them in politics now is imperative to our country's political progress.

Barack Obama

## Sensationalistic coverage gives primaries a Super Bowl feel

CNN's primary election coverage rivaled the Super Bowl in glitzy lights and commentator intensity.

As pundits from both sides of the political spectrum scrutinized every possible voter distinction, with color-coordinated graphs and charts, I already felt like I was watching Joe Buck analyze the New York Giants offense.

JOSH DAVIDSON

The comparison only grew more ridiculous as one of CNN's analysts started to draw yellow circles around particular counties when discussing whether those votes would go to Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton. Yellow circles. I was truly awed. This was a throwback to the football announcers of my youth, circling the wide receiver as he ran a cross pattern to the right corner of the end zone. In the Super Tuesday primaries, I was also reminded of basketball's shot clock as CNN analyst Wolf Blitzer counted down the seconds until various states closed their polling stations.

Politics, contrary to this primary season hysteria, is not a sport; Ted Kennedy endorsing Obama is not comparable to a Tom Brady-Randy Moss touchdown pass.

Because of this primary's historical significance -- no incumbent or vice president as a candidate -- the televised media is treating this primary election like, well, the Super Bowl.

Though racehorse politics have long been a staple of the American system, the past months' primary hysteria threatens American democracy. By relentlessly hyping each election, the media ignore issues, addressing instead each candidate's position in the polls. (I have to admit, due to this overblown poll frenzy, I didn't even know Mike Gravel, one of the Democratic hopefuls, was still in the race).

Recently the media has even analyzed Obama's and Clinton's interactions in the Senate, deeming an instance of Obama's body language "the Snub" because he turned away from Clinton to talk to another colleague.

Our country and its two-party, winner-take-all general presidential elections leave Americans without room to vote for individuals who actually represent their views. And the media, especially the various 24-hour TV news channels, hone in on candidates with the star appeal and crown them front-runners. The issues fall to the wayside and voters are left uninformed. If this country is to continue holding primary elections, they should be as democratic as possible. The media must stop hyping trivialities and instead educate voters about legitimate issues and differences among candidates.

heard in the halls

"I was self-conscious, so I chose Carlos." 1/31

"Don't touch my toilet paper!" 1/31

"Hey where are we going drinking today?"
"No! I have to work ninth period!"
1/31

"I got falafel in my eye!" 1/31

Teacher: "If this dictionary doesn't have restive I'm going to set it afire."
Student: "Don't worry, I already texted Google and found out what it means."
2/7

"I am not telling you how I got mono from your girlfriend!"
2/4

Student 1: "You're late!"
Student 2: "I hope I'm not pregnant!"
2/2

The Beat
02.29.08

# SLIMMING DOWN FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

• As national health awareness rises, Shaker students turn to diets to lose weight and feel good about themselves

BY DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

Between Baconators, triple Grande Frappaccinos with extra whip and that entire large pizza, that prom dress is starting to look a little tight. If you're like a number of other Shaker students, a diet may shed those extra pounds and change the way you feel and live.

Hattie Gemerchak, a sophomore, is trying the Weight Watchers diet. She wants to lose weight for crew, as well as gain energy and feel better about her body. She believes that today's culture influences teens to be thin and look like the people on TV.

"All these people who are skinny encourage teens to be skinny. Anorexia and bulimia are common. The media's killing people!" Gemerchak said. "But it's better to be on a diet than not eating at all."

Senior Rebecca Semel agrees that being on a diet is beneficial. She's following the Skinny Bitch diet to have more energy and feel and eat healthier. She chose the vegan Skinny Bitch diet, which disallows animal products, refined sugar, smoking and alcohol consumption.

"It seemed really healthy. It's not like a scary crash diet, so it really appealed to me," Semel said.

According to a Gallup poll, fifteen percent of teens ages 13-17 are on diets to lose weight. However, the trend throughout the nation seems to be that teens are concerned with eating healthily, rather than losing weight. This is echoed in studies and articles written in recent years.

In a 2007 New York Times article titled "104 Teenagers Who Are Role Models for Weight Loss," teenagers mentioned "too much snacking," and "not enough exercise" as reasons for a lifestyle change.

Nurse Paula Dworkin agrees that attempting to be healthy overall is a better goal than actually dieting.

"Portion size and more exercise" are the things to focus on, she said. A poster titled "Potion Distortion" in the school's clinic provides information and tips concerning portion size. It explains that teenage girls active women and most men should consume 2,200 calories and 36 grams of fat per day, while teenage boys and active men should eat 2,800 calories and 93 grams of fat.

English teacher Chuck Kelly, a vegetarian, notices trends in the student body similar to that nationwide.

"I'm surprised how many students are enlightened about diet and health," he said.

Luckily, those on diets feel that their friends and family support them for the most part. Gemerchak is doing Weight Watchers along with her mother.

"We keep each other on track. We're like our own support system," she said.

Semel, however, is alone in her dietary exploits, and has received some mixed feedback that she says doesn't bother her.

"My parents support me, but my friends think I'm crazy. They don't get it, or they think it's stupid, because it is so restrictive," Semel said.

**TYPES OF DIETS**

**JENNY CRAIG** focuses on portion control, providing the company's planned-out meals. It includes a workout regimen.

**SLIM FAST** helps you create healthier eating patterns with their flavored shakes that curb hunger and cravings.

**SKINNY BITCH** is an in-your-face look at weight loss that insists on going vegan. It doesn't touch your carbs, but cuts meat, dairy, sugar, refined flour and artificial sweetener. The basic premise: get healthy to get skinny.

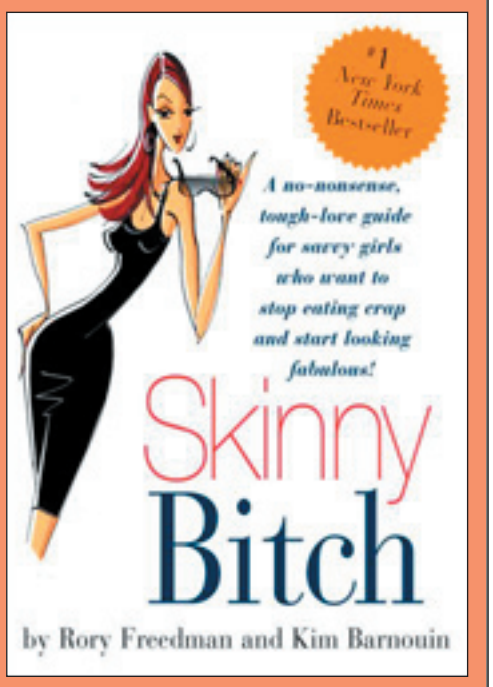
**SOUTH BEACH** avoids cravings, and attempts to cut "bad carbs and bad fats" out. It also pushes "normal-sized portions."

**WEIGHT WATCHERS** uses The Flex Plan, which assigns specific foods point values, (and each day dieters must consume exactly their allotment of points) and The Core Plan, stressing less caloric but more filling foods.

**ATKINS** is famous for emphasizing meats and limiting carbohydrates. It utilizes the Atkins Nutritional approach, which entails achieving "carbohydrate awareness" and incorporating vitamins and minerals and exercise.

## Tongue-in-chic diet book provides tough love tips

BY JOSH DAVIDSON
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR


#1 New York Times Bestseller
A no-nonsense, tough-love guide for savvy girls who want to stop eating crap and start looking fabulous!
Skinny Bitch
by Rory Freedman and Kim Barnouin

A diet book written by women from the modeling world sounds demeaning enough. But with the title "Skinny Bitch," this New York Times Bestseller struck fear into my heart.

I understand that my 18-year-old male identity does not make me the typical audience for this book. Yet, I felt it necessary to investigate the doctrine of this diet followed by my friends, their parents and my English teacher's mother-in-law.

To my disappointment, "Skinny Bitch" is not nearly as degrading as I had hoped. I wanted to ruthlessly attack this diet as one that was not only unhealthy, but also anti-feminist. What this "no-nonsense, tough-love guide" provided me was a diet that was actually healthy. It advocated cutting sugar, junk food and their substitutes (aspartame, low fat snacks, etc.), as well as meat.

I first commend "Skinny Bitch" for attacking the diet soda craze; the book clearly explains the poisonous attributes of fake sugar, of which our nation consumes 8,040 tons a year, by listing the various chemicals that make up the substitute, as well as providing the research that shows aspartame can actually increase appetite.

Secondly, "Skinny Bitch's" model-authors, Rory Freedman and Kim Barnouin, call on the reader to stop consuming meat. The writers explain how animals live in morbid conditions; eating their own feces, being branded with third degree burns and stunned with guns. The books goes on to explain that in addition to the inhumane manner in which our population grows meat, human bodies, with our elongated esophagus are unable to really handle the consumption of flesh.

Though these two suggestions are rather radical (and in my opinion correct), what I found most interesting about this diet was the aggressive manner in which Freedman and Barnouin articulated .

5 minute critic

The book read like Tony Soprano's vocabulary, with an abundance of swear words and personal attacks. I was surprised at first until I realized what drew so many people to "Skinny Bitch;" this book is the ultimate "cool" diet.

With its racy title, commanding suggestions and vulgar language, these two women have written a book that hip dieters can relate to. Unlike the traditional American diet, "Skinny Bitch" is aggressive enough to tap into today's "Sex in the City" feminists; those who want to move up in the workforce and be thin while doing it.

# DEPRIVING FOOD OF TASTE COULD SHRINK OUR WAISTS

**A NONFAT, GRANDE NO-WHIP SKINNY MOCHA CONTAINS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Calories | 130 |
| Fat Calories | 0 |
| Total Fat | 0g |
| Saturated Fat | 0g |
| Cholesterol | 5mg |
| Sodium | 170mg |
| Total Carbs | 19g |
| Sugars | 17g |
| Protein | 12g |
| Vitamin A | 15% |
| Calcium | 40% |
| Caffeine | 150mg |

BY COLIN JACKSON
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Diet has become the fifth four-letter word in Paris Hilton America. With every new supermodel skinnier than the last, dieting and the resulting diet foods have become more popular and more American than apple pie.

In light of this societal nuance of health consciousness, it would be ill advised and just plain stupid for food distribution chains such as McDonald's and Starbucks to not jump on the bandwagon and ride it straight to the bank. Both chains are now pushing new and improved healthy option campaigns. I wanted to know if they were both healthy and edible.

These healthier options supply lower calorie choices. For example, by eating a McDonald's Snack Wrap with Honey Mustard instead of a cheeseburger you save yourself a whopping 20 calories! These are 20 fewer calories of guilt – but you could also end up with an unpleasant stomachache for your trouble. The wrap, which featured standard, mysterious chicken parts surrounded by something like green lettuce and what appeared to be cheese, was topped with honey mustard and all tied up in a tortilla. After a few bites of the Snack Wrap, I was in search of only one thing -- a barf bag.

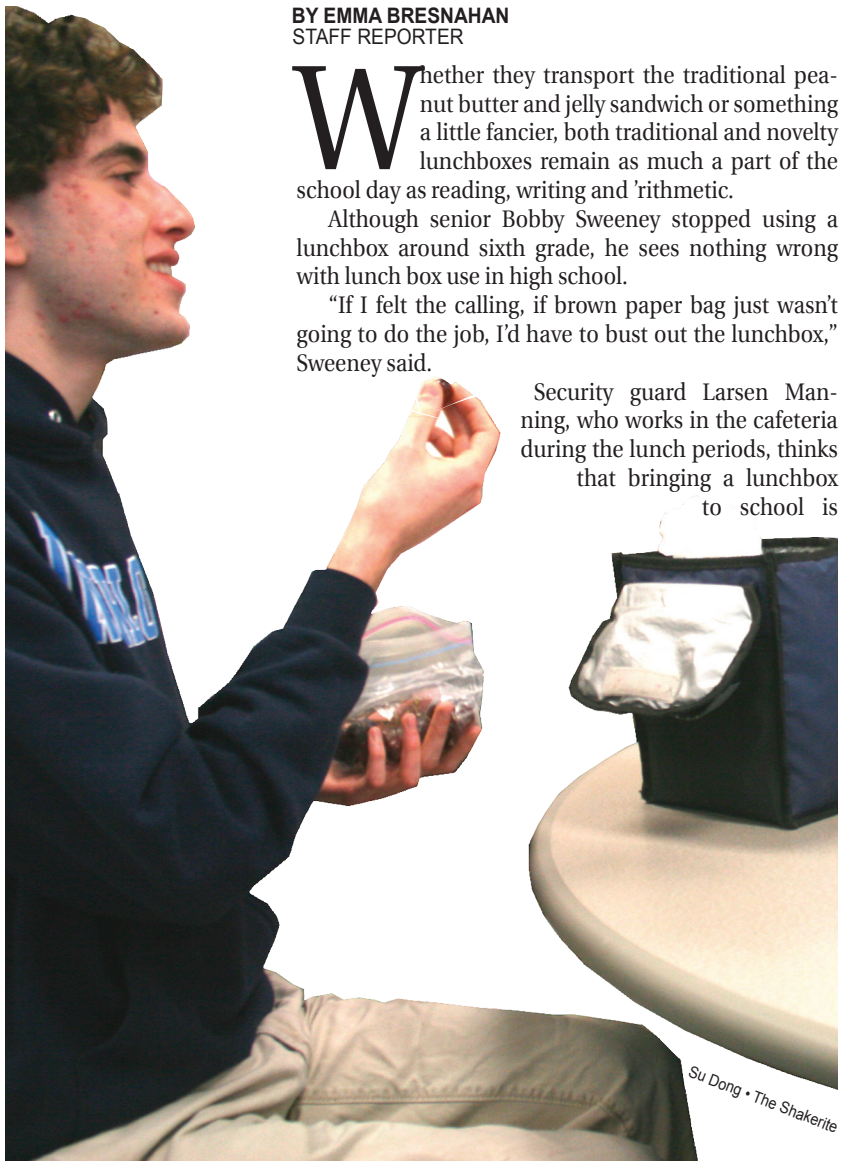
Similarly, my hopes for Starbucks' ability to make a tasty, less caloric coffee drink were low. The Skinny Vanilla Latte proved a truly dietary drink, sporting only 160 calories in its Venti (large, for the rest of us) form. Though friendly to the waistline, it's not the tastiest beverage. When I sampled it, I anticipated missing the sugar rush I was used to in my Venti Cafe Mocha with whip and extra chocolate on top. I was right not to expect much, but I was unprepared for the horrid after-taste of my first (and only) swig.

5 minute critic

It would be easy to say that all dietary fast food options are a bad idea, but leave it to Applebee's to strike a balance that doesn't blow your calorie count to shreds. The Teriyaki Steak N' Shrimp Skewers, a Weight Watchers signature dish, gives hope to dieters across the nation with a truly superior taste. The skewers are so flavorful they can make you forget you are eating a meal that only has 370 calories to its name.

In moments of disgust during my low calorie adventure, the thought that I was doing something healthy for my body made me feel good. I will probably never become a health food guru who will choose the celery stick over a Snickers bar, but I might put down that third Triple Stacker with onions and pick up that iceberg side salad.

# LUGGING LUNCH THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY



SENIOR DAVID BARACH eats the lunch he packed in the traditional-style lunchbox he brings daily.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

BY EMMA BRESNAHAN
STAFF REPORTER

Whether they transport the traditional peanut butter and jelly sandwich or something a little fancier, both traditional and novelty lunchboxes remain as much a part of the school day as reading, writing and 'rithmetic.

Although senior Bobby Sweeney stopped using a lunchbox around sixth grade, he sees nothing wrong with lunch box use in high school.

"If I felt the calling, if brown paper bag just wasn't going to do the job, I'd have to bust out the lunchbox," Sweeney said.

Security guard Larsen Manning, who works in the cafeteria during the lunch periods, thinks that bringing a lunchbox to school is better for the environment.

"I think kids should bring a reusable [lunchbox]," Manning said. "Paper or plastic make a lot of trash, and also aren't as good for the environment." However, Manning has "never" brought a lunchbox to school.

Senior David Barach carries a traditional lunchbox to school everyday. Although Barach acknowledges that carrying a lunchbox can be a bit of a hassle, he likes the fact that they last longer than grocery bag or brown bags.

Additionally, Barach feels that carrying a lunchbox is a great way to transport meats and other foods that need to be kept below a certain temperature.

"If I used a brown paper bag I would probably have to carry a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or something that's usually not refrigerated," Barach said.

Shaker parent Julie Stolzer buys her children lunchboxes because the boxes are sturdier than brown paper bags or grocery bags. Stolzer added that the thermoses inside of the lunchboxes are also very useful.

Stolzer's daughter, fifth grader Rachel, agrees that one simple rip in a brown paper bag can make your food spill everywhere, a problem not encountered with lunchboxes.

However, Rachel also acknowledged the drawbacks of having to carry around a lunchbox.

"Even though I'm not in the high school, carrying a lunchbox is annoying because I always forget that I have it when I'm done eating my lunch and always leave it where I was sitting," Rachel said.

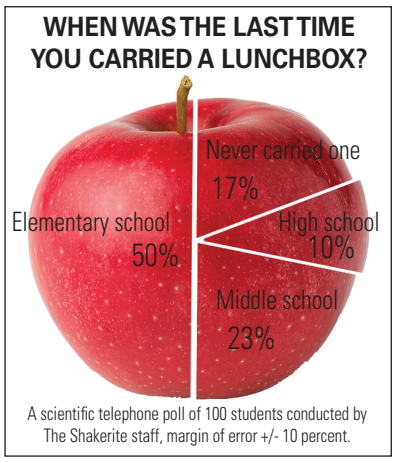
Lunchboxes can still be found on the shelves of many stores. Steve Presser, manager of Big Fun, a nelty store on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights, said that he has trouble keeping the store's vintage lunchboxes in stock, especially the Charlie's Angels and Dukes of Hazzard lunchboxes, the two most popular models.

These vintage lunchboxes range in price from $10 to more than $100, depending on the type of lunchbox as well as how old it is. Generally, the price of newer lunchboxes doesn't rise above $25, although they contain thermoses.

Presser added that the lunchboxes serve other purposes besides storing meals, as most of the people he sees buying the lunchboxes are "funky, artsy" kids who use the kits for their art supplies.

He also said that fashion plays a role in the increasing popularity of lunchboxes.

"Several years ago a rush of people wanting lunchboxes came in because . . . I guess some pop star was seen carrying a lunchbox as a purse," Presser said.




A scientific telephone poll of 100 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 10 percent.

Shaker Heights
Teacher's Association
SHTA
Professionals
Dedicated to Educating
Shaker Youth

Kokopelli Coffeehouse & Smoothie Shop
3427 Lee Road at Van Aken (216) 295-1159
WELCOMES ALL STUDENTS TO AFTER-SCHOOL
STUDYHALL AND MEETING HANG-OUT SPACE
25% OFF ALL FOOD AND BEVERAGES ANYDAY,
ANYTIME FOR ALL STUDENTS.
FREE WIFI, TV AND MUSIC!

## Say hello to 9th grade theater experience

Su Dong • The Shakerite

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN Hello Goodbye, the Ninth Grade Theatre Experience Feb. 22. The show consisted of music, movement and the students' original poetry. Matthew Steenbergh, a member of the theatre company, said, "The show went pretty well. The audience responded to the poetry the most because there was a lot of stuff that made them laugh." He added that meeting new people was his favorite part of participating in the show. Margaret Pierce, also a company member, agreed. "Participating in the 9th grade theater experience has helped me branch out to people who I've only said 'hi' to in the hall." Freshman Jennifer Smith said that her favorite part of the show was the guitar piece performed by Rita Bole. "It was amazing," Smith said.

Mike Young • The Shakerite

JUNIOR MEG GREEN practices breaststroke Feb. 20. Green, who is part of the 400-meter free relay team, was among the six Shaker women swimmers to qualify for the state meet.

# Shaker swimmers surge through district contest

**BY MIKE YOUNG**
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

If you can call the Shaker swim team's results at last year's district meet a "disappointment," then this year is certainly a bounce-back.

After sending only one swimmer, junior Sarah Leonard, to states last season, the women's team sent six swimmers in four different events.

Leonard qualified for the state meet for the second consecutive year in the 100-yard backstroke (improving on last year's 1:01.16 with a 59.78 in the district meet this year), and participated in the 200 medley relay and in the 400 free relay teams.

Leonard attributes the time gain to her improved work ethic.

"Last year, I was inconsistent with my morning practices and double-time. . . this year I was more consistent in showing up, " she said. "Eric [Peterson, coach] also had me working with weights that helped me improve my time." Leonard swam a 1:01.31 at states.

Joining Leonard in the 200 medley was sophomore Marisa Vavruska, junior Paige Dingess and sophomore Katie Walker. The Raiders swam a 1:50.88, placing third at the district meet and a 1:53.26 at states.

Vavruska also qualified for states in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:07.77 and swam a 1:09.27 at states. The 400 freestyle team comprised Walker, Leonard, senior Ali Russ and junior Meg Green. With a time of 3:42.92, they placed sixth at the district meet and swam a 3:44.98 at states.

During the regular season, the women's team finished second in the Lake Erie League, finishing behind Mentor at the Jan. 26 LEL meet by one and a half points. Peterson seemed surprised by the results.

"We had them within 40 points. . . we closed the gap," he said. "We gained a lot of confidence from that meet."

The men's team, on the other hand, won the LEL after posting an undefeated record in dual meets. They were not able to ride that wave of momentum into a state-qualifying individual or relay team.

Senior John Gruber thinks the workload for relays is heavy.

"It's a lot of hard work; morning practices, double time during [winter] break," he said. "The relay team is the best definition of a team."

A men's relay team didn't qualify for states but that's largely because of how tough it was to get out of districts, according to Peterson.

"The guys field was tough this year," he said. "They were just a little too fast."

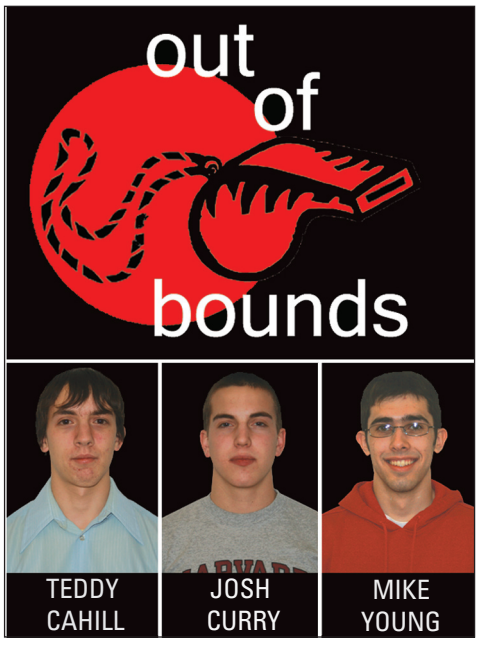
The top-finishing male in a single event at the district meet was senior Wilson Fraser, who finished eighth in the 500 free with a time of 4:45.60.

Despite not sending a single swimmer to the state meet, senior captain Cesare Zannoni, who swam a 49.48 in the 100 freestyle at districts, was happy with the season's results.

"It was disappointing for the guys not to go to states but we ended on a high note with how the girl's did. . . I'm proud of them."

> "It was disappointing for the guys not to go to states but we ended on a high note with how the girls did."
> Cesare Zannoni
> Senior

# SHAKER SENIOR SPRINTERS SIGN WITH OHIO STATE




With national signing day passing Feb. 6, Raider Zone updates you on two more Shaker athletes heading to Division I. Senior sprinters **Shaniqua McGinnis** and **Jewelisa Thompson** signed letters of intent with Ohio State and will run track for the Buckeyes in the spring of 2009. McGinnis also considered Texas Christian, the universities of Kentucky and Georgia.

Thompson originally wasn't going to run track in college but ran well at a hurdle camp in December and then got in touch with a representative at Ohio State. She was an alternate for the 4x400 and 4x200-meter relay team last season and went to regionals in hurdles. McGinnis has been on the last three 4x400-meter relay state championship teams and also finished third in the state as part of the 4x200 team and in the 400-meter dash.

## NBA'S SHIFTING BALANCE OF POWER

What happened to the NBA that we knew and . . . didn't love? Since the Los Angeles Lakers ripped **Pau Gasol** from the Memphis Grizzlies, the NBA trade market, more than ever before, has been in a constant frenzy. Now, the Cleveland Cavaliers are involved with the acquisition of **Ben Wallace**, **Wally Szczerbiak**, **Delonte West** and **Joe Smith**. Wallace finally gives the Cavs a shot-blocking presence they have been lacking since **Larry Nance** retired. The biggest question still facing the Cavs is whether or not they'll have a consistent second scoring option on the perimeter. All in all, the Cavs improve in this trade, especially defensively, while improving on their already strong front-line depth.

## SHAKER'S DAYTONA CONNECTION

Courtesy of Getty Images

Though Shaker graduate **Roger Penske** ('55) has 14 Indianapolis 500 victories, his career as a car owner wasn't complete until **Ryan Newman's** win at the Daytona 500, his first Daytona 500 victory as a car owner. Penske struggled for 17 years, despite notching 60 wins outside of the Daytona 500, in NASCAR's top series. Northeast Ohio doesn't have a strong NASCAR fan base but it was certainly instrumental in this year's Great American Race.

Courtesy of The Plain Dealer

DURING LAST YEAR'S district tournament, Anthony Wells shoots over Sir Christian Williams.

## WARRENSVILLE BRACKET TOUGH AGAIN

Despite having to travel a short distance down Northfield Road to reach the district tournament at Warrensville Heights High School, the Shaker men's basketball team faced a very tough road to reach the Cleveland regional tournament. Among the 13 teams in the district are six teams ranked in the Plain Dealer Top 25, including number one Garfield Heights. The Tigers are not the top seeded team in the district, however. That distinction is reserved for Warren Harding, ranked sixth in the state by the AP.

Last year's runner-up, Garfield returns a strong core from that team including Wisconsin recruit **Robert Wilson**. However this year's team played a weak early season schedule, remaining unbeaten until a 69-68 defeat to Brunswick Feb. 8. Warren Harding has already defeated three teams in the district including an 87-76 beating of Shaker Dec. 22.

# WRESTLERS GET UP OFF THE MAT

## • Shaker overcomes shrunk roster to finish season strong

**BY JOSH CURRY**
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

After struggling with the loss of more than five starters, the Shaker wrestling team managed to pull out a strong post-season with seven athletes competing in districts and two state tournament qualifiers.

At the start of the season, all looked well for Shaker wrestling. "We had a solid team with a couple really strong guys," coach Marc Enie said. "If everything went right we could have won LEL's."

Everything, however, did not go right for the team and instead of first, they placed fourth in the Lake Erie League. Starting with a record of 9-2, the team struggled in the second half of the season and finished with a 10-8 record. The sudden downturn came after losing four senior starters to miscellaneous reasons and multiple other starters to injuries.

The team did not let adversity pin them down. "We stayed focused and worked hard," said junior wrestler and state qualifier Roman Lawson. The only other wrestler heading to states, Jefferson Ajayi, said, "a lot of freshman stepped up and filled the gaps. They exceeded all of our expectations and won some big matches that they were not supposed to."

The squad did not allow their regular-season troubles run into the post-season. "Having seven wrestlers qualify for districts is a huge accomplishment," Enie said.

Lawson agrees that the post-season was a success for the team. "A lot of people met their goals of making it past sectionals and into districts," Lawson said. "We have a young team and hopefully some will set their goals higher for next year and work toward states."

Su Dong • The Shakerite

JUNIOR WRESTLER JEFFERSON Ajayi takes a hold of his opponent during the Feb. 8 dual meet against Bennedictine.

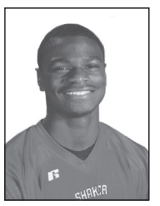
The team's "most consistent and highest placing" wrestlers, Lawson and Ajayi, both qualified for states after placing first and third, respectively, in the district tournament.

"Districts was tough because there were so many strong contenders" Lawson said. He won every match in the 215 pound weight class at districts, increasing his win tally to 38.

Winning all of his matches at districts except one to the second ranked wrestler in the state, Ajayi is proud of his performance. "It was a great experience," Ajayi said. "It felt awesome after I beat the number four guy in the state in overtime."

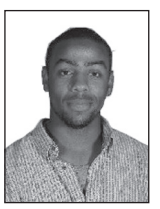
The team hopes to be able to carry Lawson's and Ajayi's momentum from the post-season into next year.

**WRESTLING STATE QUALIFIERS**



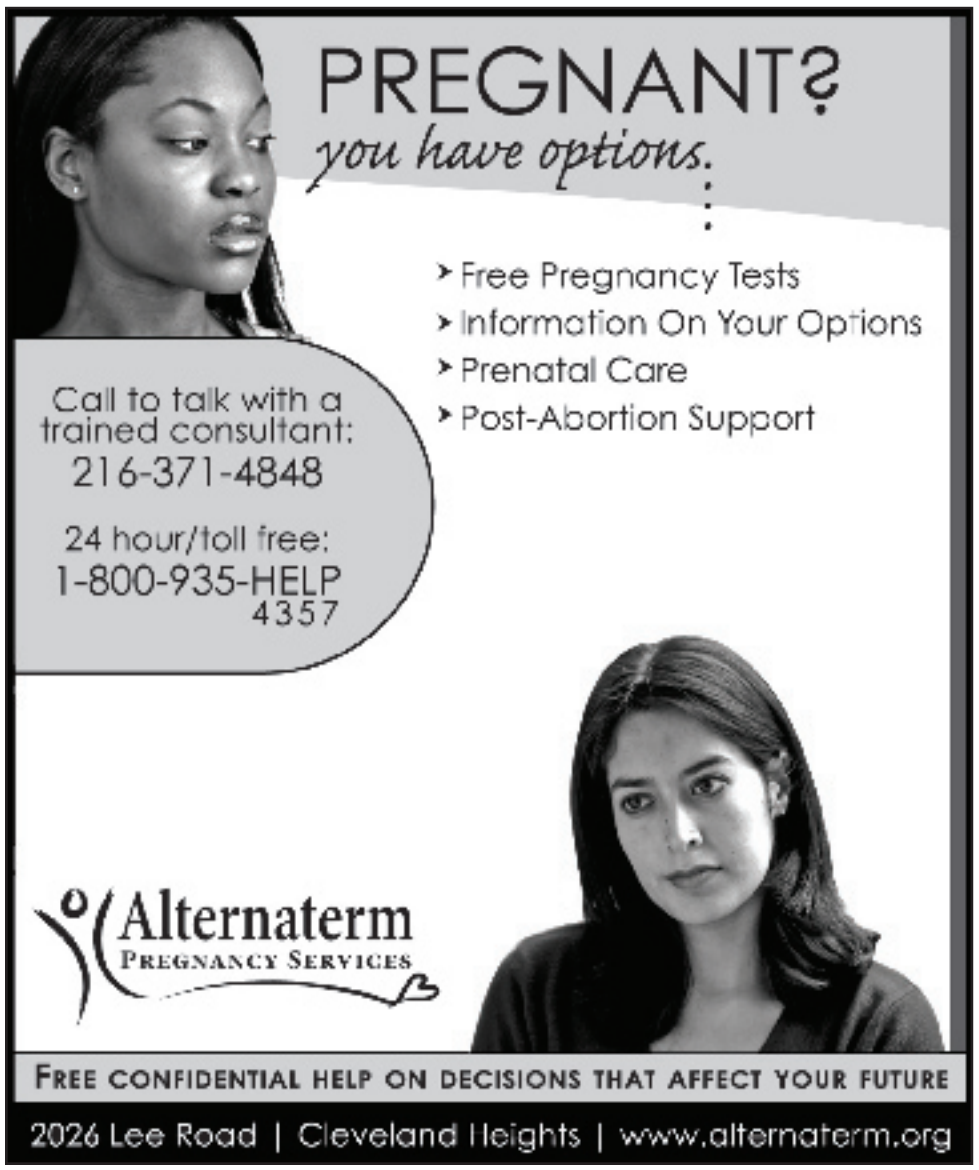
**Jefferson Ajayi**

Third in district
Weight Class: 171
Record as of 2/25: 37-9
Defeated Joe Abujaradeh of Berea by a 4-3 decision

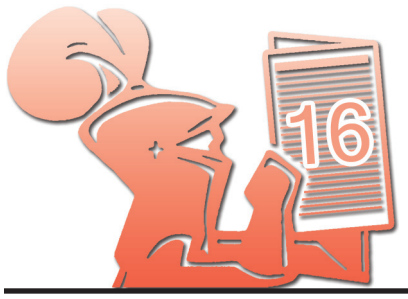


**Roman Lawson**

First in district
Weight Class: 215
Record as of 2/25: 38-5
Defeated Mike Green of St. Edward by a 5-3 decision



SANDPIPER BEACON BEACH RESORT
"...Spend Your Spring Break and Senior Week With Us!"
Amenities & Accommodations
• Sailboat, Jet Ski Rentals
• Parasail & Water Weenie Rides
• 2 Large Outdoor Swimming Pools
• Lazy River Ride & Turbo Slide
• Indoor Atrium Dome & Pool
• Volleyball, Shuffleboard & Mini Golf
• Beach Playground
• Huge Beachfront Hot Tub
• Suites up to 10 People
• Kitchens with Microwave, Coffee Maker
• Conference Center
• Grocery Store
• Game room & Gift Shop
• Restaurant & Tiki, Free Entertainment
• Sonny's BBQ Behind the Sandpiper
• Guest Events
• Karaoke, Ladies Night
• Mardi Gras
Sandpiper Beacon Beach Resort
17403 Front Beach Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413
Switchboard: 850•234•2154
Call us for reservations!
800•488•8828
www.SandpiperBeacon.com

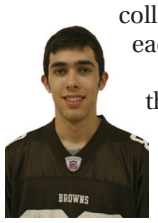



**TWO SHAKER FENCERS PLACE AT STATES**

At the state fencing championships, two members of the Shaker women's fencing team placed among the best in the state. Senior Alex Dimeff won the epee contest and finished second in the foil. Dimeff defeated Hathaway Brown's Courtney Dumas for the epee gold medal. Freshman Victoria Fydrych placed second in the saber event. "It was a challenge at times," Fydrych said. "But with perseverance and hard work I made it."

Raider Zone
02.29.08

# Taking a ride on the shady side



MIKE YOUNG

Though I may not be speaking from personal experience, the most stressful part of any high school senior's year is the college admissions process. Of course, if you're a blue-chip football or basketball recruit, college coaches and fans are subject to each of your petty whims.

While recruiting has always been the lifeline of college athletics, at no other time in the history of college football or basketball does it seem that programs are banking on one recruit to save the school. That's when some coaches, boosters and others affiliated with these programs go to any length to get their hands on the next money-making prospect who can turn a down trodden program into a five-star destination.

I can't even imagine what goes through the mind of a guy such as Pennsylvania prep star quarterback Terrelle Pryor.

Does he go to Michigan to play for Rich Rodriguez, who just skipped out of his previous job a year after signing a seven-year contract extension? Who needs integrity when the coach promises to build the program around you for at least the next three years? Who needs credibility when there's so much money at stake for these universities?

When Georgia football coach Mark Richt tells us that he brings a group of recruits to his house and dusts off his inner Forrest Gump by dominating them in ping-pong, we think there's something wrong. What happened to the more traditional recruiting practices of hiring strippers to "entertain" recruits (see: Rice University, the University of Houston and, most notably, Colorado).

Give credit to the NCAA, which has recently forced schools to log activities during recruiting visits, cracking down on enticing players through jet-flying, limousine-riding and expensive seafood dining like Miami did with former linebacker Willie Williams (who was arrested 11 times before entering college).

Yet, is there any answer to the greasy boosters and university donors who offer full-time, paying jobs for these kids who, in actuality, sit on lawn chairs and sip lemonade instead of working (like former Oklahoma quarterback Rhett Bomar's car dealership deal)? I think I'll take that offer instead of going to a place where I actually have to work.

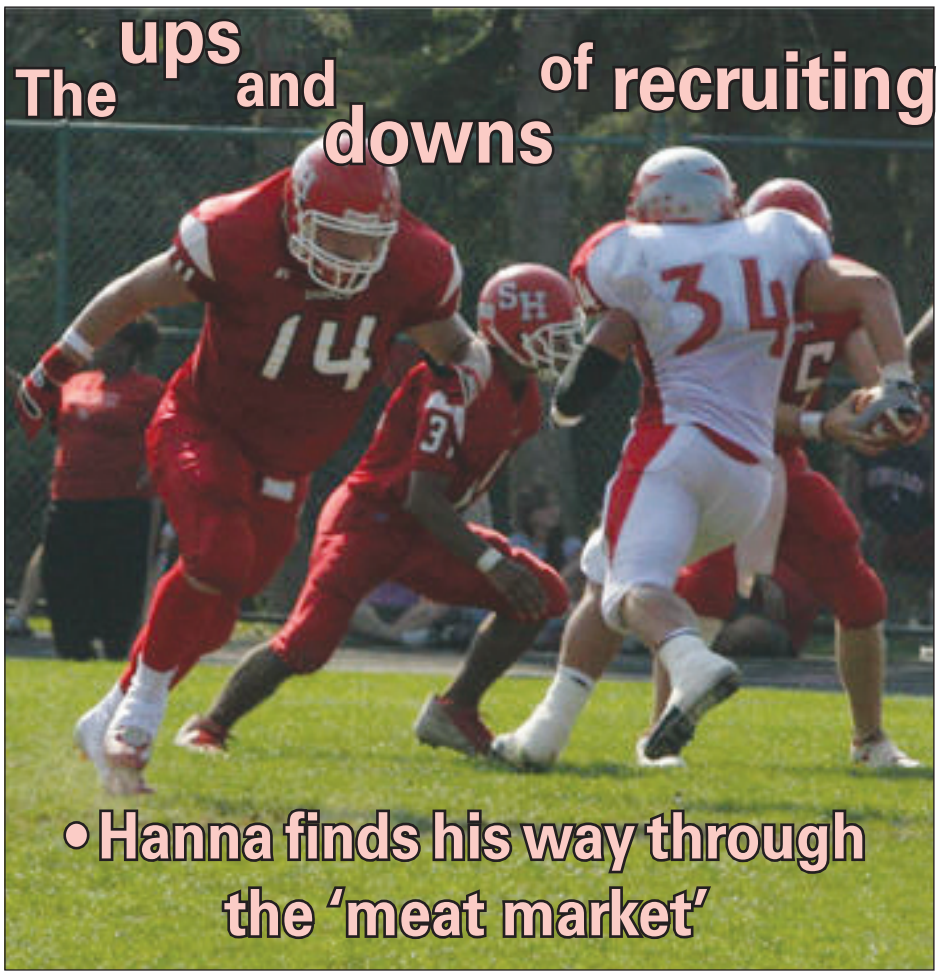
It doesn't get any easier for the NCAA to clean up these schools' recruiting practices. A new age has already dawned when it comes to technology and recruiting.

At least the NCAA has been pro-active about text messaging, officially banning it last August. That's simple compared to how the NCAA and colleges might try to handle websites such as Facebook. Fans and certainly boosters contacting high school recruits through Facebook would be representing the university's athletic interests, which is an NCAA violation.

There's too much to lose when there's so much money involved. For every Mark Richt, who seems like a wholesome guy, there's a shady coach who needs a star recruit to build a stable program. There's no end to how far some of these sleazy university personnel will go.

# The ups and downs of recruiting

## • Hanna finds his way through the 'meat market'



Courtesy of Christian Hanna

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS RECRUIT senior Christian Hanna runs down field to block a Mentor player Oct. 6.

**BY TEDDY CAHILL**
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Christian Hanna sat, unsmiling in the North Gym, deliberately signing his name. To a passerby it might have looked as if the senior tight end were signing his life away slowly.

Instead, Hanna was signing his letter of intent to play football at Southern Illinois, sitting next to his smiling teammate Chris Browne, who signed with Southern University, and track stars Jewlisa Thompson and Shaniqua McGinnis, who committed to Ohio State.

But for him this day didn't represent a celebration, but rather an end to the exhaustive process that began three years ago down Buckeye at Benedictine High School.

After seeing sporadic varsity action for the Bengals during his freshman year, Hanna became the only sophomore starter for the defending Division III state champions (Hanna would transfer to Shaker during his junior year). Operating in a run-oriented offense, he became known as a "dirty dog," a blocking tight end.

The college coaches liked what they saw, showering Hanna with letters and invitations to see their teams play for free. After a strong junior season for Benedictine, Hanna had become one of the top tight end prospects in Ohio. "The recruiting process is very shady," Hanna said. "It's like a meat market and we're the meat. The coaches pick who they want and throw the rest out."

During the summer there was a bright spot for Hanna as Colorado emerged as his leading suitor. He visited Boulder and before the trip ended he received a verbal scholarship offer from coach Dan Hawkins.

Around the same time, Hanna was named the seventh best tight end in Ohio by Rivals and the 87th best in the country by ESPN. In addition it looked like he would be able to better showcase his receiving skills in the Raider offense than he had at Benedictine. "[Recruiting] has its ups and downs," Hanna said. "It makes you feel real good, but sometimes it becomes somewhat of a burden. It can be a real weight bearing down on your shoulders."

That weight was about to get heavier.

As the season progressed it became obvious that Colorado was starting to go another direction and the scholarship that seemed so sure just a few months ago disappeared."They found a bigger, better guy," Hanna said. "It was a big stab in the back to me. You can't be lulled into a misconception."

This time it was Southern Illinois that came forward as the leading candidate. "I liked his physical strength," Southern Illinois head coach Dale Lennon said. "I think he can be an excellent run blocking tight end."

Southern Illinois visited Hanna in Shaker Jan. 24 and that night booked a ticket for the Raider to fly to Carbondale, Illinois to visit the campus the next day. "They spent well over a grand to bring me out that weekend," Hanna said. "I'm their guy, and that speaks volumes."

# THE RECRUITING RUNDOWN

A student-athlete must be a student first, then an athlete. To be eligible to participate in NCAA athletics, the student must be certified by the **NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse**. Division I athletics requires a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and a minimum SAT score of 820.

**Recruiting websites** allow student-athletes to post compilation videos that show off their skills. You can see videos of Shaker students at scoutingohio.com and rivals.com.
A **verbal** is a non-binding oral statement made by a student declaring what college he plans to attend.

**Visits** are meant to help student-athletes determine what college or university they would like to attend. The college pays for official the visits. A total of five visits are allowed after the first day of an athlete's senior year in high school and only one visit is allowed per college.

A student-athlete will sign the **National Letter of Intent** near the end of their senior year. By signing the NLI, the student formally agrees to attend the college or university for one year. Once this binding contract is signed, other schools are required to cease recruitment of the athlete.

Infographic by John A. Fletcher • The Shakerite
Information compiled by Josh Curry